Six Army Reserve nurses deploy to the CNMI. PAGE 2
With casinos closed, could online gambling be an alternative? PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

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**RELIEF DISTRIBUTION**
People on foot line up at the Garapan Central Park's Roundhouse during the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation's relief distribution yesterday. The foundation also did a drive-thru distribution. The EVMF considers the activity their biggest to date, giving away about 1,000 bags of food packages to members of the community. KRIZEL TUAZON

# Jeju Air rescue flight next week

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Jeju Air has heeded the call of Korean nationals in the CNMI who are appealing for help to fly to South Korea.

Jeju Air will be flying out over a hundred Korean nationals on May 27, 2020, at 3:40pm, according to Chris Chang from the Korean Community of Saipan. "People who have reserved seats are expected to come to the airport two hours prior to the scheduled flight." he said.

Chang also told *Saipan Tribune* that there is a high likelihood this will be Jeju Air's last flight to and from Saipan. "Although the [CNMI] govern-

See JEJU on Page 4

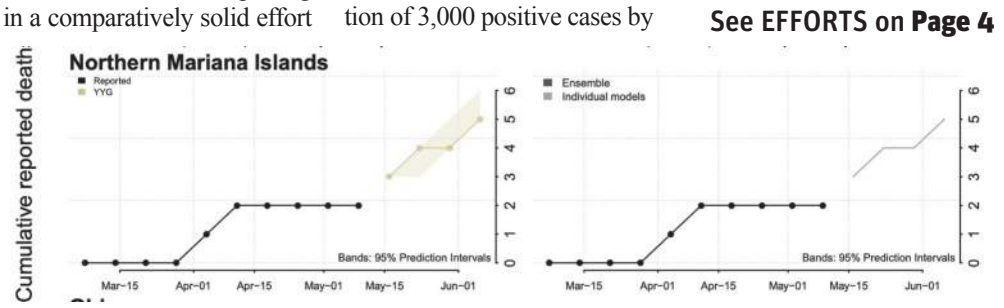
## Efforts to 'flatten NMI's curve' holding strong

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has been putting in a comparatively solid effort in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, with just 21 cases since the outbreak in March, despite a grim projection of 3,000 positive cases by mid-June.

Citing prediction models, the Federal Emergency Management Agency had expected

See EFFORTS on Page 4




The frame grab from a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention model, which was updated last May 14, shows the cumulative death forecast that was predicted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the CNMI.

## Hopwood campus renovation is 90% complete

**AT A GLANCE**
As of 6pm, May 19, 2020

| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 154 | 0 | 154 |
| Recovered | 126 | 0 | 126 |
| Active | 25 | 0 | 25 |
| Deaths | 6* | 0 | 6* |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 21 | 0 | 21 |
| Recovered | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Active | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Deaths | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested** | | | 3,562 |

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Renovations to the Hopwood Middle School campus, which was left in shambles as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu back in 2018, is now 90% complete.

As of last week, it's now down to just the finishing touches on the classrooms that are under renovation, said Charlie Kenty, PSS associate commissioner for Administrative Services, during a special Board of Education board meeting last week

"The repair work on Hopwood Middle School, as of this week, is 90% complete. The contractors are completing the finishing touches on the last 19 classrooms," he said.

Aside from classrooms repairs, Kenty said the contrac-

See HOPWOOD on Page 4

## BOE iffy with September opening

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education has raised a number of concerns about the Public School System's plan to reopen campuses in September, given that there is still no COVID-19 vaccine and the coronavirus pandemic still poses a health threat.

During a special board meeting last week, BOE member Marylou Ada told PSS that they would first need to address the sanitation and disinfection of classrooms before the opening of public schools.

On top of that, Ada also brought up concerns about testing students and school

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## INSIDE

**LOCAL**
Saipan-born and GCA alumnus Jason Steven Pixley is now off to the U.S. Navy.
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**BUSINESS**
Everest Kitchen along Micro Beach Road in Garapan reopened its doors last week.
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**NATION**
President Donald Trump said he is taking a malaria drug to protect against the coronavirus.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

# Local

## Six Army Reserve nurses deploy to the CNMI

By MAJ. MELODIE TAFAO
9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND

Nurses from the 1984th U.S. Army Hospital-Pacific, headquartered at Fort Shafter Flats, Honolulu, Hawaii, have been deployed to the CNMI to help increase medical capacity.

These nurses—three critical care nurses and three registered nurse anesthetists—came together from Oahu, Idaho, Florida, and South Carolina to support the 18th Medical Command under U.S. Army Pacific, also headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"We were tasked to provide critical care assets to the people of CNMI in anticipation of COVID-19 hitting the islands," said Col. Elizabeth Tugas, officer-in-charge. "The goal was to get the assets in place before the island peaked with cases. The critical care nurses are anticipated to staff the COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit overflow currently under construction."

As nurses in their civilian capacity, they work the front lines during this COVID-19 pandemic in their respective communities. But as Army reservists, they now have answered the call to serve their nation and continue to risk their health and safety against the virus thousands of miles from home. 1984th USAH-P Commander, Col. Paz Nuanez, calls them "Big Hero 6."

"I called all six of them personally," Nuanez said. "And without hesitation, they all volunteered to mobilize for a quick COVID Response and place themselves in harm's way to help the people of CNMI, and that is why I called them my 'Big Hero 6.'"

While the CNMI and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are taking the lead in the COVID-19 response and providing material support, 1984th USAH-P's "Big Hero 6" serves in a support role to these efforts. They have recently completed orientation to the hospital's intensive care unit and operating rooms and have also been utilized in the community testing efforts.

Their presence and support have not gone unnoticed within the commonwealth. "The community could not be more supportive, gracious and welcoming," said Tugas. "We have been completely overwhelmed by the kindness of the people of Saipan."

In addition to the "Big Hero 6", 1984th USAH-P deployed and mobilized additional personnel in support of COVID-19 response efforts. Medical planners have been attached to U.S. Army Alaska, an epidemiologist mobilized to work with Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and additional soldiers assigned to 1984th USAH-P have also been assisting the efforts with the Theater Support Group, Detachment Marianas. To ensure the safety of the soldiers, their families, and the community, Hawaii-based soldiers will be quarantined for 14 days upon return, and will be tested for SARS CoV2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Nuanez is proud of her unit and their efforts. "I am so impressed with my team that they were able to formulate a course of action quickly that would have an impactful response to fight COVID-19 in [the] CNMI," Nuanez said. "All of these soldiers has chosen the medical field to care for their community and are U.S. Army Reserve soldiers because they want to use their skills to help our nation, conserve the fighting strength and support the people of the USARPAC area of responsibility and beyond."

## Jason Pixley now a US Navy ensign

Born and raised on Saipan, Jason Steven Pixley is now off to pursue his military career in the U.S. Navy after graduating from college.
CONTIBUTED PHOTO

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan-born and Grace Christian Academy graduate Jason Steven Pixley is now off to the U.S. Navy after successfully finishing his Bachelor of Arts degree from Virgina Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia last week. He was also a member of the Corps of Cadets at Virginia Tech, which is a senior military college.

Pixley began his career in the U.S. Navy a day after his college graduation, soon after being commissioned as an ensign, which is a junior officer in the U.S. Navy and the rank is usually held for two years until promotion to lieutenant. Pixley is scheduled to attend training in San Diego this summer.

His dad, TanHoldings' chief legal counsel Steven P. Pixley and his wife, Aizell, are understandably proud. "When Jason was in school here, he was a member of the mock trial team as well as the GCA basketball team. Also, at a young age, he has talked about joining the Navy. He was influenced by the history surrounding the Northern Mariana Islands," said Steven Pixley. "His mother and I are both very proud of Jason."

Steven Pixley himself graduated from Virginia Tech, though he was not in the Corps of Cadets and proudly points out that Jason Pixley received a 3.8 GPA during his last semester at Virginia Tech.

After Jason Pixley's training in San Diego, he is set to report to the U.S. Navy base in Yukosuka, Japan, where he will be assigned to join one of the U.S. Navy's cruiser, the USS *Chancellorsville*.

# Baby born out of wedlock can still inherit from dad's estate

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has ruled that a baby conceived out of wedlock and born after the death of the biological father can inherit from the father's estate as an afterborn heir.

In an order Monday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said the evidence provides clear and convincing evidence that David Ngirarois Camacho (David I), who has since passed away, was the biological father of David Ngirarois Camacho II (David II). As such, Camacho said, David II is an afterborn heir of decedent David I. Camacho said a new birth certificate shall be issued to David II, listing David I, as his father. The judge also ruled that David II is deemed an heir of the estate of his father, David I.

Adrienne Deleon Guerrero Flores, who is the administratrix of the David I estate, claims that David I is the biological father of her son, David II. Flores said David II was born after David I died.

Camacho heard last March 5 Flores' motion for a determination of paternity and heirship for David II. Flores appeared personally at the hearing and through counsel, Christopher Heeb.

In his findings of fact, Camacho said that David I entered into an intimate relationship with Flores in March 2018. They were unmarried but lived together until David I's death.

David I and Flores also lived with two of David I's biological minor children from a previous relationship and five of Flores' biological minor children from a previous relationship. David I was active in the lives of all seven of the minor children that lived with him and Flores.

In July 2018, four months after that, Flores became pregnant. David I publicly held himself as the father of Flores' unborn child and expressed excitement at the pending birth of the baby. Flores testified that she and David I informed their families and friends of the pregnancy and upcoming birth.

Camacho found Flores' testimony credible, as well as the testimony of two other witnesses—the oldest biological child of David I and a relative of David I—who both testified, among other things, David I's excitement about the pregnancy.

On March 1, 2019, then-47-year-old David I died in the CNMI. On April 14, 2019, or a month after David I died, Flores gave birth to a baby boy she named David II.

Camacho said paternity established after the death of the father must be proven by clear and convincing evidence. Citing precedent, Camacho said the CNMI Supreme Court found that the same rationale used in paternity proceedings under the Uniform Parentage Act also applies in heirship proceedings where paternity is at issue.

Camacho said evidence that Commonwealth courts may use to establish paternity include evidence of sexual intercourse between the mother and the alleged father at any possible point of the conception, testimony regarding one's birth out of wedlock, and any other evidence relevant to the issue of the paternity of the child.

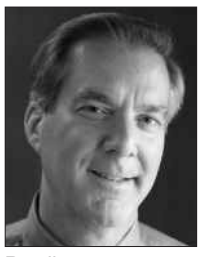
Camacho said he heard credible testimony that Flores, the mother of David II, had sex with only David I during the time in which David II was conceived

Camacho said he finds that the evidence provides clear and convincing proof that David II is the biological son of David I.

# Bradley: DPS regs give little specific guidance on the use of deadly force

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety's regulations provide little specific guidance on the use of deadly force and current self-defense law is focused upon the average citizen and does not recognize the more complex circumstances officers may face in defending themselves or a third party.


Bradley

Chief Prosecutor John Bradley cited this weakness in CNMI law in concluding that police officers were justified in a hostage-taking incident in San Antonio last March 24 that ended with Gordon Castro and his girlfriend, Kisha Lyn M. King, dead. He said the officers were authorized by law to exercise deadly force by firing their weapons.

In his Thursday report to Attorney General Edward Manibusan about his independent investigation into the 38-hour hostage drama in San Antonio, Bradley recommended that DPS and the Legislature examine the laws and regulations regarding the use of deadly force and consider whether more specific laws should be passed to inform police officers of their duties in using deadly force.

He also recommended that the Legislature consider passing more restrictive laws regarding the release of repeat violent offenders on bond and probation. Furthermore, Bradley recommended that the Legislature should examine and reform the laws dealing with the commitment, supervision, and treatment of mental health patients.

"In responding to violent criminals, police officers face difficult decisions in the use of force," he said.

Bradley said his review is not the final word on that subject; it is limited to examining the criminal responsibilities associated with the use of deadly force in this specific hostage drama case.

He said public discussion of these and related issues is healthy and necessary to maintain a balanced relationship between the community and law enforcement.

"The Office of the Attorney General stands ready to participate in that discussion and expresses great sympathy for all the persons involved in this tragic shooting incident, including the officers, both person who lost their lives, and their grieving families," Bradley said.

In his report, Bradley said the gunshots that hit Castro in the head, chest, stomach, and between the chest and stomach, came from the officers.

As for King, he said the facts make it very likely that the gunshot to her chest came from Castro. Bradley said Dr. Philip Dauterman concluded that it was the chest wound that killed King. He said King was also shot in the left arm and left pelvis.

The hostage drama started on March 10, 2020, when the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force obtained a warrant for the arrest of Castro based upon information a day before (March 9) that Castro repeatedly discharged a gun from inside an occupied vehicle, shattering a window in the vehicle.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 182 E 01 containing an area of approximately 4,545 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.
ii. The prospective lessee is Triple Star International Corporation. The lists of officers for Triple Star International Corporation are Wei Gang Xiong, as President, Zhang Qing, as Corporate Secretary.
iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of Triple Star International Corporation, mainly Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of the providing recycling services that collect, recycle, and market scrap materials, and the retail sale of electronics and appliances.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 26, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Gi sigun Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannåå'i guini nutisia put i intensiona para u atkila finitmi na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum henerål pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiño, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 182 E 01 ni konsisisti kåsi 4,545 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Lower Base, iya Saipan. I kopian måpa nu i påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.
ii. I "prospective lessee" i "Triple Star International Corporation". I listan i ufisiåt siha para i Triple Star International Corporation si Wei Gang Xiong, kumu Presidenti, Zhang Qing, kumu Sekritåriun "Corporate."
iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan manegosiu ginin i ufisiåt yan direktot i Triple Star International Corporation, mayutmentu si Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu na rason na para u pribeniyi "recycling" na sitbisiu ni ha rikohi, "recycle," yan bendi i mansopbla na matiriåt siha, yan para u fambendi "electronics" yan "appliances."

I tema nu i maproponi na kontråtan atkilon sa bentisingku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada' såkkan gi durântin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusentu nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na Kontråtan Atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.
vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha aksesepta tinigi' upiño, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di May 26, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONG REEL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

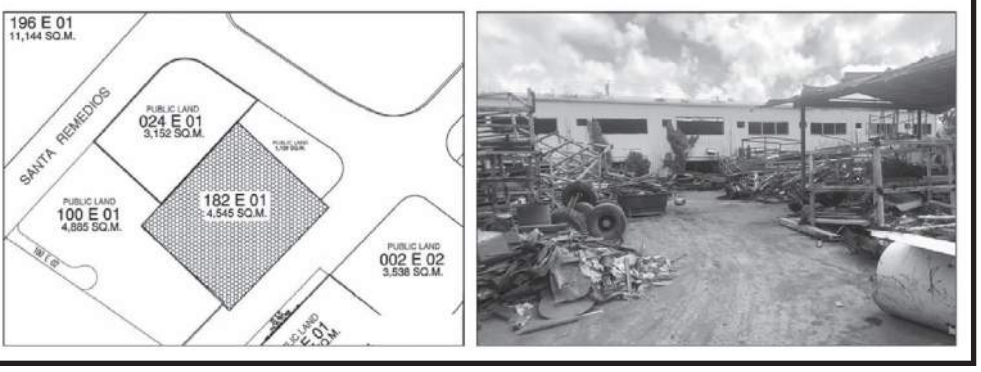
Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorongol ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay e bwáálo bwe Lot 182 E 01 ebwe bwáá bwe 4,545 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me website www.dpl.gov.mp
ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.
ii. Schóól Atkkilóón nge Triple Star International Corporation. Ikkal list-al "officers" me Triple Star International Corporation nge Wei Gang Xiong, bwe "President", Zhang Qing, Bwe "Corporate Secretary".
iii. Pommwol Atkkilóón nge e angúúngú ngáli mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi "officers" me "directors-il" Triple Star International Corporation, i Wei Gang Xiong.
iv. Schóól Atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw bwulul ebwe ayoorai angaangil "recycling" iye ebwe bweibwogh, "recycle", me "market scrap materials", me akkaméélól "electronics" me "appliances".

Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel percentage sángi appraised fair market value reel falúw ebwal schuulong applicable percentage reel Business Gross Receipts llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp
vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli Atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Lower Base, Seipél.
vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwali May 26, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



# CNMI mourns death of Lifoifoi

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The whole Commonwealth is grieving following the loss of former House speaker and Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose R. Lifoifoi, who passed last Monday, May 18, on island.

Lifoifoi also had a strong presence throughout Micronesia, especially in the Republic of Palau, having served as Palau's honorary consul to the CNMI.

"Our islands will remember one of its dedicated public servants as a pioneering leader in our economic development and infrastructure improvement," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who ordered all flags in the CNMI to be flown at half-staff until the day of Lifoifoi's internment.

The governor officially announced Lifoifoi's passing in a proclamation. "To me, he was my special chairman, as I like to call him. He was an [adviser] who became my mentor. He was a good and honest man, who understood and practiced the value of being a man of his word," Torres said. "Lt. Gov. Palacios and I, along with our families, join the Commonwealth in mourning the passing of speaker Lifoifoi. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Cecille, their children, and grandchildren."

File photo shows Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, right, and former House of Representatives speaker Jose R. Lifoifoi.
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Also mourning the loss of Lifoifoi is Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who highlights the former House speaker's contribution to the CNMI as a cornerstone in business, government, and politics.

"The CNMI government faced many challenges in modernizing its airport and seaports to expand commerce in our islands, and Mr. Lifoifoi was at the forefront of those challenges," Apatang said. "His leadership as chairman of the CPA board will continue to inspire current and future board members to give it their all in performing their roles as decision makers for the agency."

Apatang added that Lifoifoi's commitment to bring airline services to the CNMI and staying connected to the rest of the world made air travel convenient. "He gave so much to our islands' development that made it easy for many who call our islands home to travel beyond our shores, grow, and prosper."

Lifoifoi served as speaker of the CNMI House of Representatives from 1986 to 1998, and also served as the chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association. He also served as a member of the board of CPA for 16 years, before resigning in January last year.

## EFFORTS

*From Page 1*

3,676 positive cases in the CNMI by mid-June but that has not happened so far, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who cited the CNMI's current seven active cases as an example of the CNMI's early success is "flattening the curve." The term refers to a public health strategy to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Torres credits the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., its chief executive officer, Esther Muña; the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and everyone else involved who have been working hard to control the spread of the coronavirus.

"Since Day 1, we've worked so hard in treating this pandemic as a high risk, even the fact that we had no cases. We were doing everything that even other states have not done," said Torres during the governor's media briefing on Monday.

Torres also pointed out that it's not only just CHCC, the COVID-19 Task Force, and the front-liners that helped flatten the curve but also the community. "Everybody is in this fight," said Torres.

According to Muña, there have been a lot of prevention and planning since January this year to help flatten the curve. She cited CHCC's Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program's team for providing a list of actions that needed to take place. Muña stated that there were "key ingredients" to help flatten the curve which is: contact tracing, the ability to isolate individuals from the rest of the community, and the support of the CNMI government.

"Those are the things that were key to make sure that we have the capacity to manage what's in front of us," said Muña. "That really worked well with the COVID-19 Task Force, the medical team that we have, which is Dr. John Tudela, Dr. Beth Kohnen, Dr. Martin Rohringer, and basically coming together was really key to where we are now," she said.

When asked to respond, people agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity.

"It's still a little too early to say that the numbers will stay this way since the projection is in mid-June, but I personally think that if people continue to stay informed, alert, and cautious, then we won't reach 3,000 cases by mid-June," said Sally (not her real name)

"If a test was performed today and came out negative, that's great but not really," said Josh (not his real name). "Personally, I think that testing today does nothing to change the result of the virus being transmitted tomorrow to a person who tested negative today."

Josh added that people can't go around carelessly after they test negative. "Even if you tested negative, be mindful of the people around you and just keep up with staying home and not going out when you don't need to," he added.

The CNMI's precautionary measures included stocking up on personal protective equipment, medical supplies, ventilators, UV lights for infection control, and the construction of an Alternative Care Site at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe and the Medical Care and Treatment Site at the upper parking lot of the Commonwealth Health Center.

According to *Saipan Tribune*'s archives, the modeling for the Marianas that was shared last April 14 suggested that COVID-19 positive cases are to exceed local capacity by late April, with peak hospitalization to occur in mid-June.

According to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), the modeling comes from a briefing by Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IX administrator Bob Fenton that he presented to insular delegates on FEMA's ongoing response to COVID-19 in the U.S. territories.

### COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 30 individuals for COVID-19 last May 18. All 30 tested negative.

To date, there have been 154 cases confirmed through COVID-19 testing in Guam, with five deaths and 126 released from isolation.

Cases are released from isolation under the following conditions: resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, improvement in respiratory symptoms and negative results from two consecutive respiratory specimens collected at least 24 hours apart.

Cases that test positive for COVID-19 through follow-up testing return to active isolation. All remaining cases are in isolation.

## HOPWOOD

*From Page 1*

tor is also renovating the hallways and the fence surrounding the buildings to ensure the safety of students.

"The hallway from the *pala pala* [pavilion] is being completed, the fence surrounding the damaged buildings will be completed by next week and the other work that needs to be completed is the bus stop roof. That's as far as the progress we've made with the old Hopwood campus," he said.

When asked by Board of Education member Marylou Ada whether students would be returning to the old campus once schools re-open in September, Kenty said that is most likely, considering how much progress has been made to repair the school. "The progress the contractors are making are according to plan, so as soon as the fence are secured, we will be having a meeting with the committee and the principal to start planning on the relocation," he said.

Ada also questioned whether the temporary classroom tents in Koblerville would be retired but Kenty said that is still subject to discussion.

"We have not discussed any plans to take down the tents in Koblerville but maybe that's something that can be discussed with the commissioner and the board on what is the plan for the tents. Certainly, once the school moves to their old campus and occupy the 19 classrooms we identified to be ready for next school year, then we can proceed with a plan," he said.

## BOE

*From Page 1*

staff and whether this would be mandatory going into the next school year.

Ada added that PSS would need to provide schools with hand sanitizers and ensure that social-distancing rules are observed.

"How are we going to prevent infection on our public school campuses? This is the first and foremost concern that we have to address before we start talking about learning," Ada said.

PSS associate commissioner for Instructional Services Jackie Quitugua said protecting students and teachers is one of the major considerations in the hybrid plan, which combines classroom and online learning methods.

"Temperature check is something that we have been looking at, as well as promoting washing of hands and social distancing. I believe these are already accounted for as part of the requirements or the critical components before we even begin instruction," she said.

BOE member Philip Mendiola-Long advised the PSS management to work with acting Finance director Kimo Rosario and Federal Programs manager Tim Thornburgh regarding the funding for COVID-19 preparedness.

"I did not see any line item for COVID-19 preparedness and I would assume that it's going to be a very large sum of next year's budget, especially if we are talking about daily sanitation of buses and classrooms. Somebody has to get the finance side and let them know what expectations there are for that budget because that can turn the budget upside down overnight. …You have to let Kimo and Tim know so that they can budget this and let you know right away if they have enough money to cover this," he said.

Currently, PSS has a couple of plans regarding the reopening of public schools in September, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada. Dr. Ada said that the PSS management team is evaluating each of these options.

"Every day, different information comes to us in relation to COVID-19, so we have to shift to plan B or plan C. We are looking at all the plans for the long term, especially when we have a second wave of COVID-19 and if there is a lockdown directive again," Dr. Ada said.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, PSS Instruction Technology director, said that one option involved the full reopening of schools. The other option, is partial reopening of schools and reducing the number of students that will go to campus each school day to ensure that social distancing rules are in place.

PSS is also talking about conducting remote learning for students who will be provided various platforms for online learning, according to Cruz.

PSS is relying on the federal Education Stabilization Funds to procure laptops and WiFi devices for disadvantaged students.

## JEJU

*From Page 1*

ment is assuming direct flights from South Korea will resume no later than July, there is a huge possibility that flights from South Korea might not," he added.

According to Chang, this will be the second rescue flight for Korean residents on Saipan who need to travel to South Korea directly. "The first rescue flight we did was with Asiana Air. We wanted…to give opportunities to other airlines as well, that is why Jeju Air is flying them out this time. …The maximum capacity is 150 seats and currently, there are 30 vacant seats left," he said.

He clarified that this rescue flight is not for free and people need to pay for their tickets. "Anyone who is interested can come to the Korean Community of Saipan [on May 19 and 20] to reserve seats," he added.

Chang said the Korean Community of Saipan has been working for some time now trying to figure out how to send their compatriots to Korea in the midst of the pandemic. All flights to and coming from South Korea have been suspended since March due COVID-19 concerns.

# With casinos closed, could online gambling be an alternative?

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With a huge question mark on the islands' casino industry, can online gambling pose as an alternative?

Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) addressed this question to members of the Governor's Economic Recovery Team, during Monday's House of Representatives committees on Commerce and Tourism hearing on the CNMI's economic recovery plan.

Manglona asked if the Torres administration is looking into online gaming, given the closure of the casino and poker arcades and the income that the CNMI gets from the industry.

"That's a sizable amount of income that we get to support all these other services. I know the online gaming bill is in the Senate but it hasn't been acted on. Is this something the administration is looking at or is it not really much of a priority?" asked Manglona.

The bill, H.B. 21-31, DH1, to which Manglona voted "no" for passage at the House last February, allows senatorial districts to establish and regulate internet gaming.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) also followed up with a question on the next step, should a proposal reflecting social distancing and other mitigation measures be submitted by the casino industry to the Economic Recovery Team, or the COVID-19 Task Force for review.

"In the event that IPI comes up with a proposal and submit to your office for review, or the task force, considering the size of the facility, should they have a good plan, will the task force assign front-liners to the facility to ensure social distancing is applied?" Guerrero asked.

Although Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña would not say yes or no, she replied that one of the discussions on the economic recovery plan is to ensure that a monitoring system be in place in businesses.

"The task force will be involved in making sure that business establishments are getting the guidance, that they follow those [guides], and somebody checks on them… check to make sure that they're still protecting employees and protecting consumers, There's going to be that responsibility of the task force," Muña said. CHCC is one of the primary members of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

While there was no direct response to the legislators' question, Matt Deleon Guerrero, a member of the Governor's Economic Recovery team, said that restrictions currently apply to casinos, based on Torres' directive.

In one of his directives addressed to promote social distancing and prevent the spread of COVID-19, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had ordered the closure of casinos, video poker establishments, e-gaming facilities, and all other businesses engaged in gaming in the CNMI since April.

Also, earlier this month, the Department of Finance denounced reports of illegal lottery games on social media, and asked that people report groups that are hosting illegal gambling on social media by calling 664-1100 or by contacting the Attorney General's Office at 237-7500.

# COTA to help increase testing access to the vulnerable

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gets off one of the vans of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority that brought passengers to the Alternative Care Site at Kanoa Resort. IVA MAURIN

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The COVID-19 Task Force is making the community-based testing even more accessible through the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority.

COTA's entire fleet has been activated to transport individuals from the airport to the quarantine site and to support the transportation needs for persons under investigation to the isolation facility.

In Monday's House of Representatives committees on Commerce and Tourism meeting, task force chair Warren Villagomez said that action items are in place to reach out to the CNMI's vulnerable population, as well as to get to the villages. "We are…working along with COTA to try to bring our elderlies and the community that don't have access to the testing [and] also access to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.," he said.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) urged the task force to help families and individuals who may not have access to vehicles. "Give the community that security that you're there to make sure that everybody get tested, and we want people in the community to be tested, so we can get that number to where we want it, so we can hopefully open domestically first, before we start considering [opening] international," he said.

For safe transport, COTA has taken measures, with vehicles going through a decontamination process, to ensure passengers are safe while aboard, assured COTA special assistant Alfreda P. Camacho in a separate interview. "We take it very seriously. Safety is our first priority," she said, and added that they have gotten together with the COVID-19 Task Force to get tested together as a group.

Villagomez added that the task force is working with Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter for a listing of the vulnerable population, "not just the elderly but the folks that are compromised, home-bound population, to come up with different ways [for] testing and access to care at [the Commonwealth Health Center]."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' Economic Recovery Team, with CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, has been highlighting the importance of community-based testing as key to gradually lifting restrictions that are in place, as well as to reopening the CNMI back to tourists.

CHCC will be going out and bringing nurses to assist the island's vulnerable populations. To date, the hospital has collected 3,420 specimens, which according to Muña, is at about 5% of the CNMI population.

Sabrina Rose T. Pangelinan
P.O. Box 501367
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 287-7388

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR: R.F.T.P (Minor Child) BY: SABRINA ROSE T. PANGELINAN Petitioner | FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0142 |

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled is set for a hearing on June 1, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in Supreme Court, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2020.

/s/ PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL & DORMITORY BUILDING**
**PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2020-X-030**

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Agape Christian School and Dormitory Building along Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Calvary International Mission is proposing to construct a three-story building with a basement including an athlete area, office spaces, storage rooms, locker rooms, restrooms, utility rooms, classrooms and dormitories, 41 parking stalls with landscaping, and a generator room. The project will be situated on a privately leased property identified as Lot No. 012 D 70, an area of about 4,890 square meters.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 3PM**. Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, this public hearing will be conducted via video conferencing through Google Meet (meeting code: zfc-wxdn-ajv or join via telephone by dialing 1-252-582-0142; PIN: 920 198 665#).

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Agape Christian School and Dormitory Building.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

## INVITATION FOR BIDS
## CUC-IFB-016

### Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of One Brand New Cummins Diesel Engine with a Capacity to Generate 2.0 MW

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Equipment Supply and Services (Design, Engineering and Supervision - Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training and Handover) of 1 complete new engine system. Bidders must note that new Cummins engine will replace Cummins engine no. 3 at the CUC Rota Power Plant in the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM's) or ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE'S AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR from which CUC intends to select one Bidder and enter into a contract agreement for CUC's power supply requirements

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota on **June 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Prospective Bidders shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-20-016" Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of One Brand New Cummins Diesel Engine with a Capacity to Generate 2.0 MW*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the IFB. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Bid price must accompany the Bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid package, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

# Justices dismiss man's appeal vs his sentence for killing wife

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court dismissed on Monday the appeal of Sylvestre Rogopes Sablan, who was sentenced in 2018 to a 25-year prison term for killing his wife at their home in Oleai.

In granting the CNMI government's motion to dismiss the appeal, the high court justices said Sablan's waiver of his right to appeal in his plea bargain was made knowingly and willingly, and that parole and probation fall within its scope.

The justices said Sablan has the burden to prove his claim of miscarriage of justice if his motion to dismiss is to make the hurdle. "Sablan has not met his burden as to any of the claims," said the high court's order penned by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and concurred by Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos.

According to court records, Sablan pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for killing his wife, Ana Maria Pialur Limes, who was found dead inside her house in Oleai/San Jose on April 20, 2015. Autopsy showed that she died of a skull fracture due to blunt force trauma. Sablan has been using methamphetamine around the time of the murder.

File photo shows Sylvestre Rogopes Sablan being escorted out after a hearing in connection with the murder of his wife in April 2015. The CNMI Supreme Court has dismissed Sablan's appeal.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Under the plea bargain, the parties agreed that Sablan would be sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment, with five years suspended. He also agreed to a sentencing hearing to determine parole eligibility and probation conditions, if any.

The plea bargain in the global plea agreement included a provision that Sablan waived a number of procedural rights, including the right to appeal his sentence and disposition.

In January 2018, Kim-Tenorio sentenced Sablan to 25 years in prison with no possibility of parole. Kim-Tenorio later ruled that after completing the prison term, then-46-year-old Sablan will be placed on 10 years of probation.

Sablan, through assistant public defender Jean Pierre Nogues, appealed to the Supreme Court to reverse the ruling on parole and probation. Nogues argued that the waiver should not be enforced, either because the issues on appeal are outside the scope of the waiver, or because enforcing it would constitute a miscarriage of justice. Nogues contended that Kim-Tenorio engaged in mechanical sentencing and failed to properly individualize the sentence. Nogues also argued that the case should be remanded to a different judge for resentencing.

The government, through assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr., moved to dismiss the appeal, arguing that the waiver in the plea agreement bars the appeal.

In dismissing the appeal, the justices said while Sablan points to some concerning procedural irregularities at the sentencing hearing, they find that these do not rise to the level of a miscarriage of justice and enforce the waiver. The justices said Sablan agreed to the waiver knowingly and voluntarily and this is no barrier to the waiver's validity.

Castro

The justices said under the plain language of the plea agreement, Sablan agreed to the disposition that "the court shall determine the length of time and conditions of probation" and whether he would be "eligible for parole." The justices found that the parole and probation determinations fall within the scope of the waiver. The justices said Sablan does not make the requisite showing as to any of the claims and thereby fails to demonstrate a miscarriage of justice. The justices found no miscarriage of justice on the ground of mechanical sentencing.

The justices said Sablan got the benefit of the bargain in that the prosecution dropped two additional charges, and the judge did not sentence him to the statutory maximum for the murder charge. The justices said the plea agreement reserved to the judge the right to determine parole and probation conditions, and the grisly facts of the case gave the judge ample reason for its disposition even without the victim impact evidence.

"Enforcing the waiver is therefore appropriate under these circumstances," the justices said.

On the issue of remand to a different judge for resentencing, the justices said Sablan provides no citation to the record of the sentencing hearing or to other sentencing hearings in which the judge allegedly exhibited bias against defendants in domestic violence cases. "This conclusory allegation of bias does not justify reassignment," the justices said.

# Application deadline for NMC Nursing Cohort this Friday

The deadline to enroll in the Northern Marianas College›s fall 2020 Nursing Cohort is Friday, May 22, 2020.

Application forms for the fall 2020 cohort can be downloaded from www.marianas.edu. The selection of cohort participants will be completed before August 2020.

Student selection will be based on the following criteria: cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; completion of all nursing and general education prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher; the ability to understand, speak and write in English; and a passing score in the program's entrance exam.

The number of students selected will also depend on the number of faculty available to teach the class. At this time, the class size will be limited to 30 students. If there is not enough space for all applicants, a wait list will be established.

Current students are advised to make an appointment with their nursing advisor via email as soon as possible to discuss prerequisites and transcripts in order to determine current standing and progress toward meeting eligibility requirements.

For more information, contact the NMC Nursing Department via email at andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu or rosa.aldan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

## THINGS TO KNOW

*As of May 19, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.*

### JKPL reopens with limited services

Effective yesterday, May 26, 2020, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library facility reopened for limited public services by appointment only to ensure health and safety of our patrons. Also, effective yesterday, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hours of operation will be from Tuesday to Friday, from 9am to 4pm. For more details, click on **link** at www.saipantribune.com.

### Updated Government Resource listing

The CNMI government has issued an updated government resource listing as of May 19, 2020, which includes all government offices and agencies that are operational and offering services to the public during the governor›s public health emergency. See Page 10 of today's *Saipan Tribune*. For additional details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

### New hours for CUC Customer Center

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public of its new business hours for the CUC Customer Center. The center will be open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 am to 3pm to assist customers with their CUC accounts and/or payment to CUC/ prepaid load purchase.

Customers are also encouraged to use the following options for CUC bill payments:

- For online payments, log into www.cucgov.org
- For pay-by-phone, dial 1-855-729-2282
- Other locations for CUC bill payment: Bank of Saipan, Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii

For emergencies, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) and monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates.

### OVR resumes normal office hours

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's office hours have resumed back to Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Modified VR services during the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be in effect. Individuals needing to apply for OVR services are still encouraged to reach out to OVR via phone at (670) 322-6537 / 6538. A staff member will provide further information on our modified processes.

If you have access to the internet and would like more information, visit www.ovrgov.net to view OVR requirements. If you do not have access to the internet, inform our offices and an information/ referral/orientation packet will be mailed to you.

### BECQ announces updated hours of operation

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality has announced that they are now providing services to the public from Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm, during the current government shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BECQ will be practicing social distancing and safety measures for the protection of their visitors and staff. The designated visitor's entrance will be the BECQ main entrance and visitors parking will be in the front of the BECQ building. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com

### FAQs: Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act

The Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act encourages businesses to keep employees on their payroll. The refundable tax credit is 50% of up to $10,000 in wages paid by an eligible employer whose business has been financially impacted by COVID-19. For details, go to https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-employee-retention-credit-under-the-cares-act.

### How Trump admin is supporting the CNMI

The Trump administration outlines how it is supporting the people of the CNMI in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For details, click on link at www.saipantribune.com.

### USDA outlines telehealth service changes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issues a summary of key service changes to increase the use of telehealth in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include allowing rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers to serve as "distant site" providers, increasing the types of services that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services can deliver via telehealth, and allowing certain telehealth services to be delivered to Medicare recipients by phone. For details, go to https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/289d418.

### USDA RD takes steps to help

USDA Rural Development has taken a number of immediate actions to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Rural Development will keep our customers, partners, and stakeholders continuously updated as more actions are taken to better serve rural America. Visit www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus for more information. Or click on https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/bulletins/2894700.

### SBA Fact Sheet

The U.S. Small Business Administration has issued a "Fact Sheet for the CNMI" about the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Read it by clicking on the link at www.saipantribune.com.

### Commerce Department in operation

The CNMI Department of Commerce will continue to provide services to the CNMI business community via means of teleworking.

For direct support and services, the CNMI is advised to contact the support team via the department's website at info@commerce.gov.mp and indicate the attention to the respective division or section for the appropriate services. See DOC advisory at the link at www.saipantribune.com.

### FBI alert vs online scams

FBI issue an alert to the public to be on the lookout for scams that exploit the current COVID-19 pandemic. See FBI advisory at the link on www.saipantribune.com.

### Process for mass testing

Mass testing for COVID-19 is ongoing at the Saipan International Airport. The test is free. People interested in being tested for COVID-19 can request for an appointment for specimen collection on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. website at https://chcc.gov.mp/covid19testing.php or over the phone through the COVID-19 Info Line. For more information, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

# Guam Guard takes lead to help GovGuam reopen

Immediately after Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, commander-in-chief, Guam National Guard, announced Pandemic Condition of Readiness 2 would take effect last May 10, soldiers and airmen from the Guam National Guard were mobilized to help disinfect the common areas of essential government of Guam departments to ensure the public would be safe as they conduct business starting May 11.

"Under the command and support of Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, the [Guam National Guard] stands ready to serve our nation and our island and every person who calls Guam home," said Maj. Gen. (GU) Esther J.C. Aguigui, The Adjutant General, Guam National Guard. ***(PR)***

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Soldiers and airmen from the Guam National Guard wipe down counters, chairs, dividers and stanchions in common areas on Saturday, May 9, at the Department of Revenue and Taxation, in Barrigada, in an effort to help ensure the department is safe to reopen on Monday

Guam National Guard airmen and soldiers disinfect and wipe down chairs in the common areas on Saturday, May 9, at the Department of Revenue and Taxation in Barrigada. GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Joe Borja, director, Department of Land Management, standing second from left, poses with airmen and soldiers from the Guam National Guard in appreciation for their hard work and commitment as they helped to disinfect and wipe down over 3,000 feet of common areas on Saturday, May 9, at the DLM offices in the ITC Building in Tamuning.

Guam National Guard soldiers wipe down vending machines and door handles in common areas on Saturday, May 9, at the Department of Revenue and Taxation in Barrigada. GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Soldiers and airmen from the Guam National Guard wipe down counters, plexiglass and chairs in common areas on Saturday, May 9, at the Treasurer of Guam in the ITC Building, in Tamuning.

## USDOE's COVID-19 support to territories, FAS exceeds $172M

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Over $172 million has been made available through the Education Stabilization Fund and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund for the Outlying Areas to the governments, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools, including students in the territories and the freely associated states.

This support was provided for under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, as signed by President Trump on March 26, 2020, and announced by the U.S. Department of Education on April 30 and posted to their website on May 5, 2020.

"The funding made available today has very few bureaucratic strings attached and empowers education leaders to focus on doing what's best for their students during this pandemic," said U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. "The [Trump] administration is committed to the success of students in the insular areas, and it is my hope that this additional funding will provide the support needed to expand technological, distance learning, training, and long-term planning capabilities that will ensure learning continues."

Douglas W. Domenech, the assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior, has applauded the USDOE's support for U.S. territories and FAS.

"We are pleased to see that such significant support for education has been provided to the territories and the FAS during the coronavirus pandemic," said Domenech. "Schools and administrators in the island areas will need to move quickly and judiciously to ensure that the funds are used effectively to meet all the needs of the public schools and students."

**Education CARES Act Funding for Insular Areas**
Education Stabilization Fund Outlying Areas and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Territories** | | |
| American Samoa | $ | 47,218,429 |
| Guam | $ | 59,758,889 |
| CNMI | $ | 29,787,559 |
| USVI | $ | 29,781,833 |
| **Total** | $ | 166,546,710 |
| **Freely Associated States** | | |
| FSM | $ | 3,654,689 |
| RMI | $ | 1,964,396 |
| Palau | $ | 762,497 |
| Total | $ | 6,381,582 |
| **Total All Areas** | $ | 72,928,292 |

For a more detailed breakdown of CARES Act funding provided through the Department of Education and for other federal assistance provided to the U.S. territories and freely associated states during the coronavirus pandemic, visit the Office of Insular Affairs website at https://www.doi.gov/oia/covid19. ***(PR)***

## DHS makes temporary changes to some H-2B requirements

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The Department of Homeland Security has announced a temporary final rule to change certain H-2B requirements to help support the U.S. food supply chain, maintain essential infrastructure operations and reduce the impact from the coronavirus public health emergency.

These temporary measures apply solely to aliens already present in the United States with a valid H-2B nonimmigrant status, and the temporary final rule does not increase H-2B visas above the congressionally mandated 66,000 visa cap through the remainder of fiscal year 2020.

"These necessary flexibilities will safeguard a critical U.S. infrastructure sector; reinforce security of the nation's food supply chain; and encourage key American businesses to maintain essential operations currently threatened by the COVID-19 public health emergency," said USCIS deputy director for Policy Joseph Edlow. "Importantly, these measures protect U.S. workers by not adding supplemental H-2B visas during the national emergency."

Under this temporary final rule, a petitioner will have additional flexibilities for employing workers essential to the U.S. food supply chain. To take advantage of this time-limited change in regulatory requirements, the H-2B worker must already be in the United States and in valid H2B status.

As part of the TLC process, the petitioning employer must have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Labor that there is not a sufficient supply of qualified U.S. workers who will be available at the time and place needed to perform the labor or services involved in the petition. The employment of the alien(s) in such labor or services will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States similarly employed.

There are two flexibilities in the temporary final rule. First, the rule allows an H-2B employer to employ an H-2B nonimmigrant physically present in the United States while the employer's H-2B petition on behalf of that nonimmigrant is still pending before USCIS. The rule only provides this flexibility if the employer attests that the worker will perform temporary services or labor that is essential to the U.S. food supply chain. The temporary employment authorization will last for up to 60 days. Second, the rule allows H-2B workers essential to the U.S. food supply chain to stay beyond the three-year maximum allowable period of stay in the United States. This flexibility applies to petitions filed by the H-2B nonimmigrant's current employer, as well as petitions filed by a potential new employer. The rule only provides this flexibility if the employer attests that the worker will perform temporary services or labor that is essential to the U.S. food supply chain. It is not acceptable for employers to hire illegal aliens.

A petitioner seeking the flexibilities under this temporary final rule will be required to submit an attestation, swearing under penalty of perjury, that the H-2B worker(s) will be performing temporary nonagricultural services or labor or that is essential to the U.S. food supply chain.

The temporary final rule is effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register.

DHS previously announced similar protections for American agricultural employers in order to secure the nation's food supply chain. The H-2B nonimmigrant classification applies to alien workers seeking to perform nonagricultural services or labor of a temporary nature in the United States, usually lasting no longer than one year, for which able, willing and qualified U.S. workers are not available. ***(PR)***

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# Progress on saving America's free press

Congress is taking some encouraging steps toward the critical challenge of saving America's local newspapers.

This was apparent in several proposals this week. A new House stimulus proposal would extend paycheck protection loans to additional local news outlets. A bipartisan group of senators, with outstanding leadership by Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell, introduced a stand-alone Senate bill offering similar loan support.

These proposals reflect growing appreciation in Congress of the crisis facing America's free press, and the need to sustain it through and beyond the current health and economic crises.

"I think the issue has hit the tipping point," Cantwell told this editorial board. "There's always a point where an issue finally breaks through to a high level, and I think obviously COVID has definitely brought it home in a real sense—we need critical information about the crisis, yet newspapers and the media are also impacted by huge losses."

Emergency support is critical for journalists and many others. Congress should simultaneously enact policies to prevent mass extinction of local newspapers.

Before the year ends, Congress should create a "superfund" to sustain local newspapers. This could be done by imposing a small fee on the ad revenue of major online platforms like Google and Facebook.

Other democracies that depend on a free press are taking similar steps. Australia is using antitrust law, and France is using copyright protection rules to force Google and Facebook to compensate publishers for news stories and articles they use.

This is not punishing success, but rightly seeking compensation for content that online giants transmit and profit from. Google alone made $4.7 billion off of news stories it displayed via search and Google News in 2018, according to a study by the News Media Alliance.

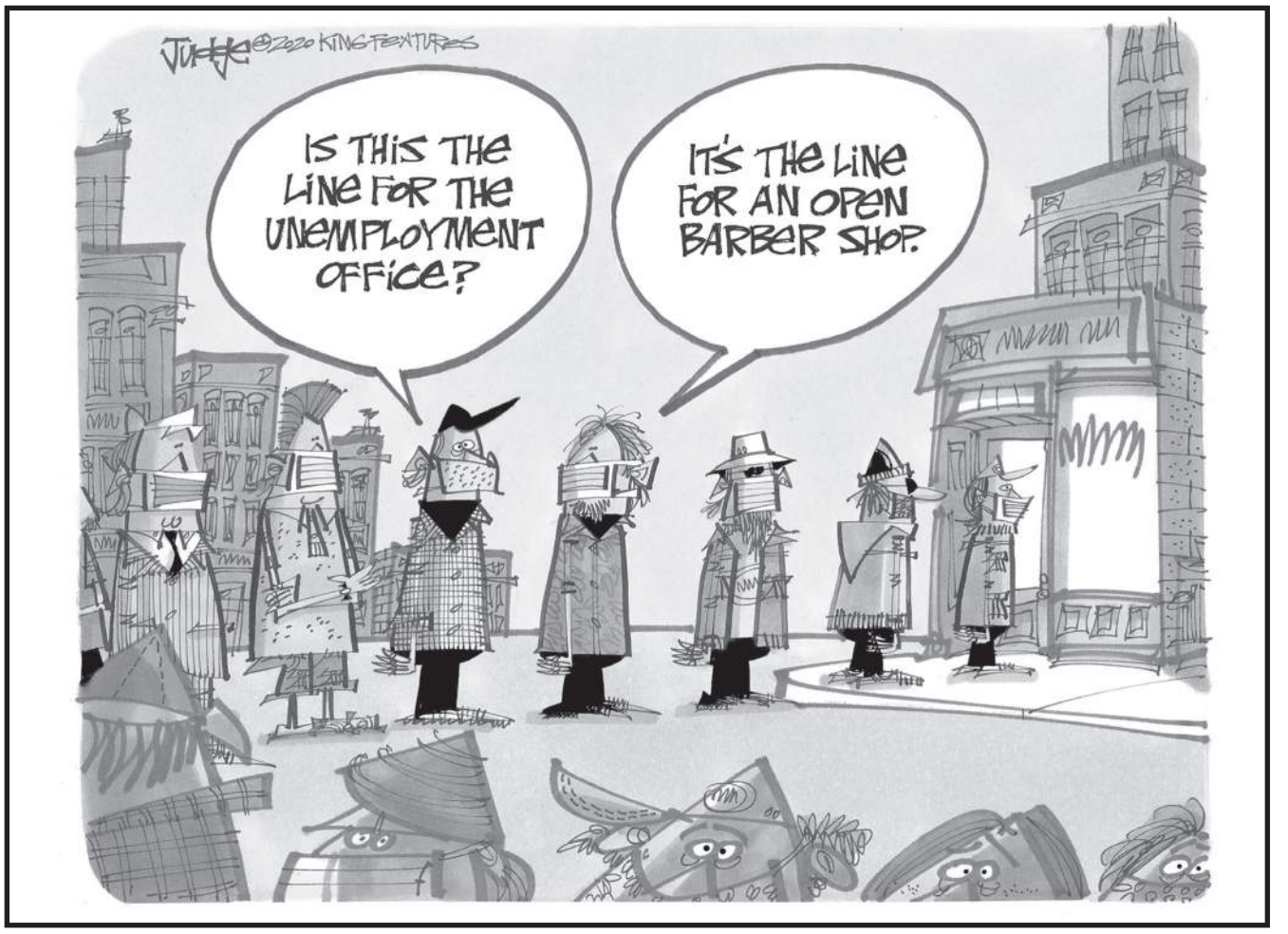
Also needed are reforms to media-ownership rules, to sustain a diversity of news organizations doing original reporting and accountability journalism. Most significant reporting that communities need emanates from local newspapers, many of which are now facing extinction. The proliferation of websites displaying news stories is not a replacement.

The combination of sustained federal support and stronger ownership regulations would incentivize more philanthropists and local investors to sustain and revive local newspapers. That's been a success in cities like Philadelphia and Los Angeles. But more is needed to help thousands of communities that have lost their newspaper or now have ghost papers, with negligible reporting, milked by absentee ownership groups.

Multiple proposals are surfacing. One, from nonprofit advocacy group Free Press, calls for $5 billion to $6 billion. That would provide emergency support for 30,000 journalism jobs, tax credits and support for public-media organizations.

Such dollar amounts sound large. But that's half a% of a trillion dollar stimulus bill for something essential, noted Craig Aaron, Free Press co-CEO.

***See PROGRESS on next page***




# Iraq and the US, after years of conflict, still need each other

**By SARA ALLAWI and MICHAEL O'HANLON**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

After months of being run by a caretaker government, Iraq's parliament has finally approved a new prime minister, the former intelligence chief Mustafa Kadhimi. To succeed, Kadhimi will need to make progress on two policy fronts: finding a way, with Washington, to sustain the U.S. military partnership, and developing a plan for economic reform and renewal.

Iraq's problems are even more daunting now than they have been in recent years. After the U.S. killing in January of Qassam Suleimani, the Iranian military mastermind, as well as an Iraqi militia leader, Iraq's parliament approved a nonbinding resolution that American forces should leave the country. After rocket attacks on March 11 killed two Americans and a British soldier, the U.S. retaliated against the suspected perpetrator, an Iran-backed militia.

American forces are taking precautions and consolidating positions in fewer, better-protected bases, but the situation remains highly fraught. It is not clear if the government, as opposed to the parliament, will now support the American military presence.

There is little doubt that Iraqis and Americans are better off working together, especially now.

For Iraqis, the American presence is an important counterweight to Iran and Islamic State. Americans are also helpful with Iraqi internal politics, especially with sectarian divisions in the security forces, often defusing tensions and mistrust between them. That was true during the surge of 2007-08. With Islamic State stepping up attacks during the COVID-19 lockdown, this concern is again acute.

For the United States, there are also important reasons to sustain a close partnership. That became crystal clear in 2014, when President Obama, after having celebrated the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011, had to send them back to contend with Islamic State. Otherwise, even larger refugee flows into Europe and beyond would have resulted, and major centers of oil production near the Persian Gulf could have been threatened.

Islamic State and other terrorist groups remain a threat today, even if they no longer hold territory in Iraq. They are deploying new tactics of small-scale, hit-and-run operations that take advantage of the gaps in security that have resulted from redeployments of Iraqi soldiers and police to ensure compliance with coronavirus lockdown restrictions. Today, the role of U.S. forces is mostly to support Iraqi soldiers and police with training and technical assistance rather than combat-related operations.

Sustaining American support in Iraq will require greater clarity between Baghdad and Washington on rules of engagement. Iraq needs to do much more to help protect American bases and other interests in the country. The U.S. needs to limit any unilateral use of military force against those who may have fired upon its forces. Any retaliatory actions, however justifiable, should be undertaken only after consultation and agreement between the two governments.

The new Iraqi government also needs a strategy for weakening and eliminating the Iran-backed and other private militias. They helped with the defeat of Islamic State, but are also destabilizing forces. Militia fighters or small units capable of combat could be recruited into the armed security services. Others should be offered compensation and job opportunities. The ability to make progress on this front will be an important indicator of whether the new Iraqi prime minister can stabilize the country in a way most of his predecessors could not.

On the economic front, frustrations with corruption and lack of opportunity had already produced mass demonstrations in 2019 unlike any seen in recent decades. That was before COVID-19 and the associated drop in oil prices.

It will take time to recover from the current crisis, not to mention decades of corruption and misrule by Iraqi elites. But Kadhimi can buy time, and support, by persuading the parliament to pass petroleum revenue-sharing laws that allocate funds consistently and equitably across the entire country, with revenues distributed on the basis of provincial population.

High unemployment is also a major problem, a key cause of many demonstrations throughout Iraq. If done fairly, privatization of state-owned entities could help. A legacy of state dominance of the economy continues to stymie economic growth and job creation.

Protesters have also demanded early parliamentary elections, which the government should schedule within a year. Before the vote, it needs to replace the electoral commission and its sectarian quota system with an electoral commission largely composed of independent judges.

Many of these changes could benefit from American technical assistance and aid. But none will require significant new resources. After years of conflict and acrimony, the two countries still need each other. It may yet be possible to turn the corner and enter a more productive relationship. Let's hope Baghdad and Washington can seize the moment.

*Sara Allawi is the head of the youth movement of the Iraqi National Party. Michael O'Hanlon is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.*

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# Filipino nurses battled discrimination and exploitation to work in American hospitals. Now they fight for PPE

**By FRANK SHYONG**
Los Angeles Times

*Frank Shyong is a columnist for the* Los Angeles Times.

If you live in Southern California, there's a good chance that you have at some point received medical care from a Filipino American professional.

Filipino nurses—along with doctors, anesthesiologists and every other kind of medical worker—are an essential source of labor at public hospitals such as LA County-USC, Kaiser Permanente and Ronald Reagan UCLA. Filipinos also staff and own many long-term care and mental health facilities.

And about 18% of registered nurses in California are of Philippine descent, according to a 2016 survey.

Nursing is such a popular profession among Filipinos that it's something of an inside joke. My roommate at UCLA used to say that he was going to be the first member of his family to become something other than a nurse.

And when I met HiFi Kitchen chef Justin Foronda earlier this year and asked him what he did for a living, he responded, "I'm a nurse, of course!"

As for my roommate? Today, he is, of course, a nurse.

Foronda has always heard that Filipinos go into the medical field because they are caring, resilient, hardworking and kind. But he's never been satisfied with that answer.

"We get put into this box, like, oh, it's funny that all the Filipinos are nurses," said Foronda, a nurse at Sherman Oaks Hospital.

But the real story of why Filipino nurses came to the U.S. is the "legacy of a very long colonial history between the U.S. and the Philippines," said Catherine Ceniza Choy, a UC Berkeley professor who wrote about the history of Filipino nurse migration.

In the 1900s, the U.S. colonial regime began to cultivate a medical labor force in the Philippines. The lofty pretext of imparting Western medicine and civilization had helped politicians to justify the American annexation of the Philippines in 1898, which occurred despite the Philippines declaring independence and installing a democratic government.

When nursing shortages hit the U.S. after World War II, Filipino nurses came to work the jobs that Americans wouldn't via an exchange program.

More nurses came after the U.S. ended immigration quotas in 1965, as well creating preferential pathways for skilled workers. The effect was further magnified when the Philippine government under Ferdinand Marcos began to actively encourage the export of all kinds of labor as a strategy of economic growth.

Nurses, and other exported workers, were labeled national heroes. And Filipino nurse graduates could not turn down the earning potential of a U.S. job, which was 12 times what they could earn in the Philippines.

Between 1965 and 1988, more than 70,000 foreign nurses came to work in the U.S., with the Philippines as the biggest sender by far.

Although American and Philippine nursing schools evolved in parallel and adhered to near-identical professional standards, Filipino nurses were systematically underpaid as exchange visitors and frequently assigned mundane tasks such as emptying bedpans, repairing gowns and janitorial duties.

American opponents of immigrant nurses added additional exam requirements for foreign nurses that failed thousands of Filipino nursing graduates. The exam fee was set at $70, the equivalent of a month and a half's salary for a nurse in the Philippines. Although the test was a prerequisite for the issuance of a work visa, the test could be taken in few major American cities.

And in 1975, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez were charged with the murders of patients at a hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. A massive deployment of the FBI—involving over 200 employees and more than $1 million—produced a case so weak that even a prosecuting attorney described it as "highly circumstantial."

Cross-examination revealed that a major witness for the prosecution—an alcoholic who admitted to significant memory loss—had no ability to distinguish between Filipinos, Chinese, Japanese and other Asian Americans. During testimony, he also asserted there was a nationwide conspiracy of 1,800 Filipino nurses to assassinate American veterans, and referred to Narciso and Perez as "a couple of slant-eyed bitches."

Abetted by a prosecution that focused heavily on demonizing Narciso and Perez as foreigners with brown skin, a jury convicted the women of three counts of poisoning.

The case became a watershed moment for Filipino Americans.

Filipino nurses around the nation began to recognize a shared experience of racial discrimination and exploitation. Activists reached out to black, Asian and Muslim civil rights groups and formed legal defense funds and nurse support organizations. Eventually, a judge set the verdict aside, citing the prosecution's "prejudiced" presentation of the case.

I think this history still matters today because hospitals hit with a flood of COVID-19 patients have nurses to care for them in large part because America opened its borders to Filipino nurses.

It matters because Filipino nurses recruited generations of sons, daughters, sisters and brothers to the field, and now entire families are at risk.

It matters because, unlike so many of us who retreated indoors when the pandemic came to Southern California, Foronda took on more shifts at the hospital, unable to sit at home knowing he could help.

It matters because Gigi Narisma-Estabillo, 55, is still going to work even though she has to reuse her N95 mask; because in the middle of a pandemic, the hospital laid off half of Narisma-Estabillo's team, forcing the remaining nurses to care for additional patients and risk further exposure; because Narisma-Estabillo and her fellow nurses still have to beg for personal protective equipment, or PPE, and coronavirus tests; because nearly half of the staff at her hospital is Filipino.

The history matters because what it shows is that this country has a responsibility to these workers, and we have not kept up our end of the bargain.

"We think America is great, yet everything that has happened, the fault is from top to bottom. Nothing is working. And we are scared," Narisma-Estabillo said. "They are pushing *us to die."*

# New York story

**By RICH LOWRY**
© 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the* National Review.

New York is the greatest city in the world. It also is uniquely suited to the spread of the coronavirus.

As the national debate over re-opening continues and the political blame game intensifies, it's worth considering the scale of New York's outbreak. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the country, and almost nothing like it in the rest of the world.

The story of coronavirus in America is overwhelmingly the story of coronavirus in New York and its surrounding suburbs. Any account of how we got to this place, with deaths nationally headed toward 100,000, must center on New York, which was seeded with the virus early and then seeded much of the rest of the country.

Nearly 20,000 people have died in New York City. If the city were a country, it'd rank sixth in the world in total deaths, behind France and ahead of Brazil.

In New York City, according to a New York Times report, deaths have been more than 300% above normal. In New Jersey, intimately connected to New York, deaths have been 90% above normal. Otherwise, no other state is close. In the rest of New York state, deaths have been 9% above normal.

The epidemic started early in New York. By the time it had its first confirmed case on March 1, there may have been as many as 10,000 undetected cases.

The city was getting seeded constantly from abroad. A study published by medrxiv.org concluded that "introductions from Europe account for the majority of cases found in NYC in the first weeks of March 2020." Then, people coming from or through New York spread the disease elsewhere in the United States.

A New York Times analysis found that the number of cases around the country correlated with how many travelers arrived from New York in early March. New York's connection to the world, especially Europe, its density and its mass transit system all made it a potent vector.

So, the question of how we could have kept the U.S. from getting so hard hit is really how we could have kept *New York* from getting so hard hit. Every day counted, and better leadership at the federal, state and local levels would have made a difference, but we shouldn't underestimate the difficulties. Trump's early travel restrictions on China would have had to be imposed on Europe as well, when no one was contemplating that. New York's leaders would have had to warn people off the subways, shut the schools and torch the Big Apple's economy before any plainly visible metrics justified it.

This is why the simplistic shots at President Trump, who indeed should have taken the virus more seriously at the outset, don't work. He's the president of New York, but also of other large, international cities like Los Angeles and Miami that have escaped New York's fate. Has his leadership been better in those places, or do divergent conditions and local decisions account for the better outcomes?

None of this, of course, is to disparage New Yorkers. They have absorbed a gut punch over the past two months with characteristic grit and bravery. Yet, without New York's distinctive vulnerability, the course of the epidemic would look completely different.

## PROGRESS

*From Page 8*

"Policymakers are actually talking about the need for policy to help journalists more than ever before, certainly more than at any time in the last 10 years and probably ever," he said.

Several hundred House members have signed various letters of support, Aaron said, and a letter urging Senate leadership to extend stimulus support to local newspapers was signed by 19 senators.

"Local news plays an indispensable role in American civic life as a trusted source for critical information, a watchdog for government and corporate accountability, and a building block of social cohesion," said the Senate letter, led by Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut. "Thousands of communities across the country turn to local news for information on governance, elections, education, health and numerous issues specific to their cities, towns and neighborhoods."

The pandemic is highlighting the importance of local newspapers and financial problems accelerating their demise. Bipartisan efforts to find solutions are much appreciated and should have long-term benefits for all Americans.

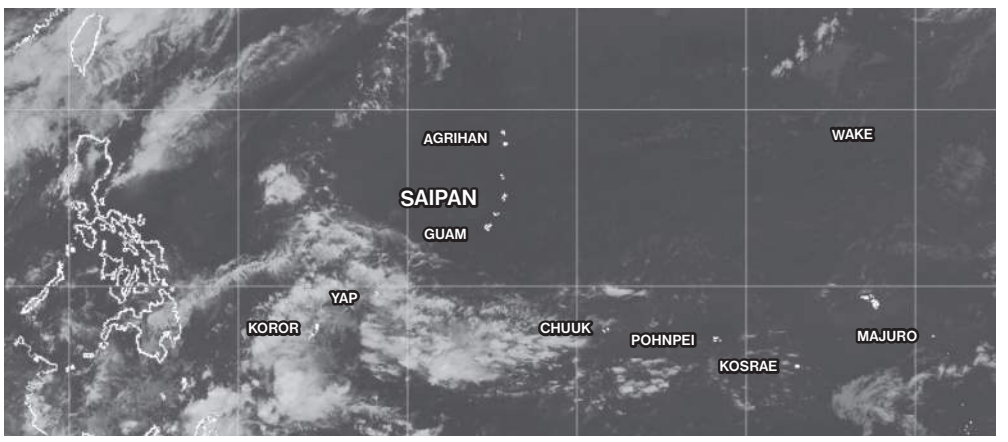
© 2020 The Seattle Times

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| 89° 79° | 89° 79° | 89° 79° | 89° 79° | 89° 79° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 9:59 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers and east trade-winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. A dry weather pattern is expected through the week.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)** | | | | **GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| UA117 | 9:15am | 9:55am | 1, 4, 6 | UA174 | 7:30am | 8:11am | 1, 4, 6 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | 88° / 80° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 86° / 80° |
| Chuuk | Mostly Cloudy | 87° / 81° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 86° / 80° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 80° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 86° / 81° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Sunny | 63° / 52° |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 73° / 55° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 88° / 81° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 73° |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 55° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 75° / 57° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 95° / 82° |
| Melbourne | Rain | 54° / 45° |
| Miami | Thunderstorms | 83° / 75° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 64° / 47° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 72° / 59° |
| Paris | Sunny | 82° / 59° |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 64° / 57° |
| Rome | Thunderstorms | 75° / 63° |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 80° / 61° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 62° / 52° |
| Seoul | Mostly Sunny | 72° / 54° |
| Tokyo | Showers | 66° / 57° |
| Washington, DC | Cloudy | 64° / 50° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:47 AM | 6:40 PM |
| Thursday | 5:46 AM | 6:40 PM |
| Friday | 5:46 AM | 6:40 PM |
| Saturday | 5:46 AM | 6:41 PM |
| Sunday | 5:46 AM | 6:41 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 4:02 AM | 4:38 PM | - |
| Thursday | 4:39 AM | 5:26 PM | - |
| Friday | 5:17 AM | 6:16 PM | - |
| Saturday | 5:59 AM | 7:08 PM | - |
| Sunday | 6:45 AM | 8:02 PM | - |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | FEET | |
|---|---|---|
| 5:51 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.92 |
| 12:45 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.39 |
| 7:11 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.76 |
| 12:39 AM | LOW TIDE | 1.03 |

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 1 MAY 19, 2020, 9:30 AM

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
- ***Cashier & Customer Service***
  Monday - Friday (Closed on Holidays)
  7:30 AM - 3:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4282
  *Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org, via phone by calling toll free Tel: 1-(855)-729-2282, or at any Bank of Guam, Bank of Saipan, or Bank of Hawaii Branch*

**CNMI State Medicaid Agency**
- ***Eligibility Office & Accounting / Claims***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
  *Still accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal / redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp*

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**
- Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
  Email: maryann@ovrgov.net
  Website: www.ovrgov.net

**CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities**
- Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-7000 / 7003
  Email: cnmicouncilondd@gmail.com

**CNMI Public Assistance Office**
- ***Available via phone or email only:***
  Mondays - Fridays
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-2411
  Email: info@pa.gov.mp

**Department of Public Works**
- ***Administrative Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 235-9570 / 5818
- ***Building Safety Code Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-2726 / 2296
- ***Technical Services Division***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-9828 / 9838
  - ***Highway Branch***
    Monday - Friday
    7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
- ***Energy Division***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4480 / 4481
- ***Roads and Grounds Division***
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-9498
- ***Solid Waste Management Division***
  - ***Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill***
    *Open all week except Wednesday & Sunday*
    7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 322-2745 (Lower Base)
    (670) 322-2761 (Marpi Landfill)

**Department of Land and Natural Resources**
- ***Division of Land Registration***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-9987
- ***Division of Agriculture***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 256-3320 / 3321
- ***Division of Fish & Wildlife***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-6000

**SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES**

**GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046**

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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## GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING PAGE 2 MAY 19, 2020, 9:30 AM

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  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-1000
- ***ALL OTHER DIVISIONS (Except Customs)***
  Monday - Thursday
  8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- ***Division of Customs Services***
  - ***Airport:*** OPEN DAILY
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Seaport:*** Monday - Friday
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    Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
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**Saipan Zoning Office**
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  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9661/ 9662/ 9663
  Email: geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp

**Office of the Attorney General**
- ***Civil & Criminal Divisions***
  Monday - Friday
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  - ***Document Drop-Off For Vehicle / Watercraft Registration Renewal***
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    Tel: (670) 664-9068
  - ***Walk-In For Drivers License***
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    8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
    Tel: (670) 664-9066
- ***Firearms and Records***
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (For Walk-Ins)
  Tel: (670) 664-9072
- ***Highway Safety Office***
  Monday - Thursday (For Walk-Ins)
  9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9121 / 9125 / 9131

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- ***Fire Enforcement Office***
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-9178

**Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs**
- Monday – Friday
  7:30 AM – 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 488-2200 / 0440 / 0550
  Email: glenna.reyes@gov.mp

**Marianas Visitors Authority**
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  8:00 AM – 12:00PM
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# Business

BEA CABRERA
Everest Kitchen owners Chola B. Gharti and Laxmi Shrestha are grateful for the love and support of their loyal customers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Everest Kitchen was established in 2013 along Micro Beach Road in Garapan.

# Everest Kitchen
## prioritizes customer's health

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Nepalese and Mediterranean food, which is one of the healthiest in the world with ingredients like whole grains, fruits, vegetables fish, and chicken, are now available once again on Saipan as Everest Kitchen located along Micro Beach Road in Garapan reopened its doors last week.

According to owner Laxmi Shrestha, Everest Kitchen temporarily closed last March for the health and safety of their employees and customers after the CNMI reported its first cases of COVID-19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Everest Kitchen prepares everything from scratch and sources their ingredients locally and seasonally.

"While closed, we received a lot of calls, emails, and messages from our customers to open the restaurant. As soon as all our staff were able to get the COVID-19 test that gave negative results, we felt confident to open the restaurant without any risk to our staff and customers," she said.

"We also used the time to plan, develop, and reorganize new menu offerings and prepare for additional safety measures that we are going to implement before opening the restaurant… In our attempt to comply with social distancing, we only provide take-out," she added.

Everest Kitchen's loyal customers should expect a new take-out menu. They accept food orders from their regular menu provided they receive the order a day before delivery and they also provide catering services.

"Our customers know that we prepare everything from scratch and source our ingredients locally and seasonally. For variety in taste, we change our menu on a daily basis and we have been lucky to get constant love from our guests. Love of our loyal patrons," Shrestha said.

"We prioritize our customers' health and we are a member of the BIBA healthy restaurant program. We strive to provide locally sourced fresh and healthy food to the community of Saipan which has given us a lot of love and a wonderful platform to serve," Shrestha added.

Running on their seventh year this year, Shrestha opened Everest Kitchen with her husband, Chola B. Gharti, in 2013 and they are originally from Nepal. Shrestha said that over the years, Everest Kitchen has been loved by locals and tourists alike because of the unique flavors of their dishes. "The food that we serve is an extension of our culture and we prepare and cook the dishes from the heart," she said.

Everest Kitchen is open from Monday to Saturday. They take food orders from 10am to 2pm and pickup is from 10:30am to 5pm. For more information, call (670) 233-2688 and (670) 285-0218 or go to their Facebook page Everest Kitchen Saipan.

## Report: Treasury fund to ease virus crisis off to slow start

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Treasury Department and Federal Reserve have lent hardly any money under a $500 billion fund created by the economic rescue law passed in response to the coronavirus crisis, a congressional oversight panel says in a new report.

The Treasury fund is being used to guarantee new, expansive Federal Reserve lending programs to companies, states and cities that could be leveraged to reach as much as $4.5 trillion.

So far only one of the new Fed programs has started operating, a lending fund likely to be tapped by large public companies, the report by the Congressional Oversight Commission said. The program was started on May 11 with $37.5 billion from Treasury.

The oversight panel issued its first report Monday even though it still does not have a chairman. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., have not agreed on a chair, leaving the five-member commission without a leader.

The commission has four other members appointed by congressional leaders. They produced a 17-page report that contains mostly questions about how the Treasury fund is going to function.

For instance, the panel asked how Treasury and the Fed will assess the program's success or failure. If the agencies use economy-wide metrics, such as economic growth, unemployment rates or wage growth, "how will they isolate the effects of this program from other factors, including other federal and state relief measures?" the commission asked.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell is pledging to reveal names and other details of entities that borrow from emergency programs the central bank has set up to offset the economic hit from the pandemic. In prepared testimony for a Tuesday congressional hearing, Powell says the Fed will disclose amounts borrowed and interest rates levied under programs to provide credit for large corporations, state and local governments and medium-sized businesses.

## Trump hears restaurant owners' worries, sees good days ahead

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Restaurant owners gave President Donald Trump a sobering accounting Monday of the widespread damage the coronavirus pandemic has dealt their industry and asked him to adjust a loan program for small businesses to address their concerns. The president put a hopeful spin on the situation, saying encouraging news on vaccines and treatment efforts could "negate" the bad news.

The president was in good spirits as he met with the restaurant executives at the White House, noting that financial markets were up as states continued to loosen economic restrictions on businesses and following Moderna Inc.'s announcement of encouraging news in early work on vaccine development.

"This was a very big day, therapeutically, cure-wise and vaccine-wise," Trump said. "Tremendous progress has been made, as I've been saying for two weeks, because I've been seeing what's going on and have been spearheading it largely."

"It almost feels like today is the first day," Trump said at another point in the meeting. "Last week didn't feel the same. Now it feels good. People are starting to go out. They're opening. They get it."

Restaurant owners said they appreciated that the government had acted swiftly on assistance efforts, but cautioned that even opening up to more customers would not necessarily mean a return to profits because they'll be serving fewer customers.

They called for extending the eight-week period in which they must spend their Paycheck Protection Program loans in order to have the loans forgiven. An extension to 24 weeks would give them more time to adjust to the new customer constraints they face as states place limits on how many people can dine at restaurants.

"We rely on social interaction so it makes us really unique that we were hit hard quickly, and it's going to make our comeback really difficult," said Melvin Rodrigue, president and chief executive of Galatoire's Restaurant in New Orleans.

Rodrigue told Trump he was "glad to hear your news" about vaccines, prompting Trump to respond: "My news negates what you just said because you would be back into business like you had it—no seats lost."

The House passed legislation last week as part of another economic rescue package that allows employers to use the Paycheck Protection Program over 24 weeks, but the White House and Trump have been highly critical of the overall bill.

**STOCK PORTFOLIO**

**LEADING INDICATORS**

| DOW | S&P | NASDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| 24,597.37 | 2,953.91 | 9,234.83 |
| +911.95 | +90.21 | +220.27 |
| 3.85% | 3.15% | 2.44% |

**EXCHANGE RATES**
In U.S. dollar terms

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australian Dollar | 1.5316 | Hong Kong Dollar | 7.7504 | Russian Ruble | 71.6317 |
| British Pound | 0.8195 | Indian Rupee | 75.2236 | Singapore Dollar | 1.4187 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.3951 | Japanese Yen | 107.3740 | South Korean Won | 1201.01 |
| Chinese Yuan | 6.9986 | Malaysian Ringgit | 4.3023 | Swiss Franc | 0.9724 |
| Euro | 0.9164 | New Zealand Dollar | 1.6539 | Taiwan Dollar | 29.4117 |
| | | Philippine Peso | 49.7671 | Thailand Baht | 31.8790 |

# Nation

## Despite risks, Trump says he's taking hydroxychloroquine

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump said he is taking a malaria drug to protect against the coronavirus, despite warnings from his own government that it should only be administered for COVID-19 in a hospital or research setting due to potentially fatal side effects.

Trump told reporters Monday he has been taking the drug, hydroxychloroquine, and a zinc supplement daily "for about a week and a half now." Trump spent weeks pushing the drug as a potential cure or prophylaxis for COVID-19 against the cautionary advice of many of his administration's top medical professionals. The drug has the potential to cause significant side effects in some patients and has not been shown to combat the new coronavirus.

Trump said his doctor did not recommend the drug to him, but he requested it from the White House physician.

"I started taking it, because I think it's good," Trump said. "I've heard a lot of good stories."

The White House physician, Dr. Sean Conley, said in a statement released through the White House press office that, after "numerous discussions" with Trump about the evidence for and against using hydroxychloroquine, "we concluded the potential benefit from treatment outweighed the relative risks."

The Food and Drug Administration warned health professionals last month that the drug should not be used to treat COVID-19 outside of hospital or research settings, due to sometimes fatal side effects. Regulators issued the alert for the drug, which can also be used to treat lupus and arthritis, after receiving reports of heart rhythm problems, including deaths, from poison control centers and other health providers.

Trump dismissed reports of side effects, saying, "All I can tell you is, so far I seem to be OK."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told CNN, "He's our president, and I would rather he not be taking something that has not been approved by the scientists, especially in his age group and his, shall we say, weight group ... morbidly obese, they say."

Trump is 73. At his last full checkup in February 2019 he passed the official threshold for being considered obese, with a Body Mass Index of 30.4. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a BMI of 40 or above is considered "severe" obesity, which some also call "morbid" obesity.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer called Trump's remarks "dangerous."

"Maybe he's really not taking it because the president lies about things characteristically," Schumer said on MSNBC. He added: "I don't know whether he is taking it or not. I know him saying he is taking it, whether he is or not, is reckless, reckless, reckless."

At least two White House staffers tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this month, sparking concerns about the steps taken by the administration to protect the president and sending Vice President Mike Pence and other officials into varying forms of self-isolation.

The White House has since mandated that those in the West Wing wear face coverings and has introduced daily testing for the virus for the president, vice president and those they come in close contact with. Trump says he continues to test negative for the coronavirus.

Trump last underwent an "interim" checkup in a November visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center that was not noted on his public schedule. His last complete physical took place in February 2019.

Several prominent doctors said they worried that people would infer from Trump's example that the drug works or is safe.

"There is no evidence that hydroxychloroquine is effective for the treatment or the prevention of COVID-19," said Dr. Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association. "The results to date are not promising."

AP

President Donald Trump tells reporters that he is taking zinc and hydroxychloroquine during a meeting with restaurant industry executives about the coronavirus response, in the State Dining Room of the White House, Monday, May 18, 2020, in Washington.

## Bankruptcy claims date set for Boy Scouts child sex victims

**DOVER, Del.** (AP)—Attorneys have agreed on a November deadline for victims of child sex abuse to file claims in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy case.

The Nov. 16 date presented to a judge Monday was worked out after attorneys for the official committee representing abuse victims objected to a proposed Oct. 6 deadline and argued that victims should have at least until Dec. 31.

"At a time when millions of Americans are unemployed and preoccupied with basic survival, sexual abuse survivors need and are entitled to a reasonable period of time after they receive notice from the bankruptcy Court to reflect seriously and make a decision whether to file a claim in this case," attorneys for the victims committee wrote in a court filing.

After filing for bankruptcy, the Boy Scouts initially proposed a deadline of 80 days after notice of the claims process was published, drawing immediate opposition from attorneys for abuse victims. The Boy Scouts later proposed the October deadline. They argued that it allowed more time than in many Catholic diocese bankruptcy cases, and that it provided sufficient time to conduct a nationwide program of print, television, radio and online notices and allow claimants to submit claim forms.

Jessica Boelter, an attorney for the Boy Scouts, said the notification program is expected to reach more than 100 million people, including more than 95% of the primary target audience of men 50 and older. An expert for the Boy Scouts estimated that men in that age group account for more than half of former Boy Scouts and at least 71% of abuse survivors with pending claims against the BSA.

The Boy Scouts sought bankruptcy protection in February in an effort to halt hundreds of individual lawsuits and create a huge compensation fund for men who were molested as youngsters decades ago by scoutmasters or other leaders.

More than 12,000 boys have been molested by 7,800 abusers since the 1920s, according to Boy Scout files revealed in court papers. Most of the more recent cases date to the 1960s, '70s and '80s, before the Boy Scouts adopted mandatory criminal background checks and abuse-prevention training and protocols for all staff and volunteers.

In conjunction with the bankruptcy case, the Boy Scouts obtained an injunction halting lawsuits against the organization's 261 local councils as "related parties." The local councils, which run day-to-day operations for local troops, are not listed as debtors in the bankruptcy and are considered by the Boy Scouts to be legally separate entities. Attorneys for abuse victims have nevertheless made clear that they will try to go after campsites and other properties owned by the local councils to contribute to the fund for victims.

The injunction does not prevent litigation going forward against individual alleged abusers. It also does not prevent the filing of complaints against BSA-related parties while the stay is in place. The injunction had been set to expire Monday, but Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein agreed to extend it to June 8, which coincides with a scheduled court hearing.

## 2017 video shows Georgia officer tried to tase Ahmaud Arbery

**SAVANNAH, Ga.** (AP)—A video released Monday shows police in Georgia attempting to search Ahmaud Arbery's parked car in 2017 and when he refuses and attempts to walk back to the vehicle an officer tried to tase him.

The video, first obtained by The Guardian, shows Arbery refusing Glynn County police when they ask to search his Toyota and as he walks toward his vehicle he is told "don't reach the car" and "keep your hands out your pockets." The officer then pulls the taser and attempts to use it but it malfunctions and Arbery is told to get down on the ground, which he does.

When Arbery questions why the cops are bothering him he was told that the area is known for drugs, a suggestion that agitates Arbery who said he is not on drugs and to check his "s—!" Officers then proceed to check him for weapons while clarifying this action was not a search, but a check.

In a police report, also obtained by The Guardian, officers said Arbery, who was parked when confronted by officers, was free to go but could not take his vehicle because his license was suspended. The report said that after he left the scene they noticed Arbery's passenger side window was open and that they smelled what they believed to be marijuana and noticed a bag with a leafy substance inside.

Calls and emails to the Glynn County Police Department and Abery's family attorney Benjamin Crump have not been returned.

Arbery was killed Feb. 23 after a pursuit by a white father and son who armed themselves and gave chase after seeing the 25-year-old black man running in their subdivision. More than two months passed before Gregory McMichael, 64, and Travis McMichael, 34, were jailed on charges of felony murder and aggravated assault.

A judge from outside the coastal Georgia community where Arbery was fatally shot has been appointed to preside over trial proceedings of the two men charged with Arbery's murder, including one defendant with close ties to law enforcement.

Court documents filed in Glynn County show that Superior Court Judge Timothy R. Walmsley was appointed to the case after all five judges in the legal circuit where Arbery was killed recused themselves. Walmsley is based in Savannah, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of where the slaying occurred just outside the port city of Brunswick.

# World

## WHO bows to calls from countries for independent virus probe

**GENEVA** (AP)—The World Health Organization bowed to calls Monday from most of its member states to launch an independent probe into how it managed the international response to the coronavirus, which has been clouded by finger-pointing between the U.S. and China over a pandemic that has killed over 300,000 people and leveled the global economy.

The "comprehensive evaluation," sought by a coalition of African, European and other countries, is intended to review "lessons learned" from WHO's coordination of the global response to COVID-19, but would stop short of looking into contentious issues such as the origins of the new coronavirus. U.S. President Donald Trump has claimed he has proof suggesting the coronavirus originated in a lab in China while the scientific community has insisted all evidence to date shows the virus likely jumped into humans from animals.

In Washington on Monday, Trump faulted WHO for having done "a very sad job" and said he was considering whether to cut the annual U.S. funding from $450 million a year to $40 million.

"They gave us a lot of bad advice, terrible advice," he said. "They were wrong so much, always on the side of China."

Later Monday, Trump tweeted a letter he had sent WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. In the letter, Trump said "the only way forward" is if WHO "can actually demonstrate independence from China."

Trump said that unless WHO commits to "substantive improvements over the next 30 days," he will make a temporary suspension of U.S. funding permanent.

WHO's normally bureaucratic annual assembly this week has been overshadowed by mutual recriminations and political sniping between the U.S. and China. Trump has repeatedly attacked WHO, claiming that it helped China conceal the extent of the coronavirus pandemic in its early stages. Several Republican lawmakers have called on Tedros to resign.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said Monday it was time to be frank about why COVID-19 has "spun out of control."

"There was a failure by this organization to obtain the information that the world needed and that failure cost many lives," Azar said. Speaking hours after Chinese President Xi Jinping announced China would provide $2 billion to help respond to the outbreak and its economic fallout, Azar said the U.S. had allocated $9 billion to coronavirus containment efforts around the world.

Tedros said he would launch an independent evaluation of WHO's response "at the earliest appropriate moment"—alluding to findings published Monday in a first report by an oversight advisory body commissioned to look into WHO's response.

The 11-page report raised questions such as whether WHO's warning system for alerting the world to outbreaks is adequate, and suggested member states might need to "reassess" WHO's role in providing travel advice to countries.

## India cases surge, Beijing petition offices shut

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—India recorded its biggest single-day surge in coronavirus cases on Monday, attributed largely to migrant workers returning home after losing their jobs in India's population centers.

The 5,242 new cases and 157 deaths due to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours took the country's infection tally to more than 96,000, the most in Asia. It now has 3,029 fatalities.

On Sunday, the federal government extended a nationwide lockdown to May 31 but eased some restrictions to restore economic activity and gave states more control in deciding the nature of the lockdown.

Authorities are largely blaming the surge in infections to the return of hundreds of thousands of migrant workers to India's villages, which have weaker health infrastructure.

India eased its lockdown rules on May 4 and allowed migrant workers to travel back to their homes, a decision that has resulted in millions of people being on the move for the last two weeks. Rail service resumed, with a limited number of trains running.

All passenger flights remain grounded, and metro services, schools, hotels and restaurants are shuttered nationwide.

Most infections reported in India are from its major cities. Mumbai, the financial capital and home to the Bollywood film industry, alone registered almost 20% of total cases.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ **AUSTRALIA BACKS PANDEMIC PROBE:** Australia's foreign minister on Monday welcomed international support for an independent coronavirus investigation that has been condemned by China and blamed for a bilateral trade rift. The European Union has drafted a resolution that is gaining support and is expected to be approved at the World Health Assembly in Geneva this week. It calls for an evaluation of the origins of the pandemic and responses to it. Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said Australia wants the resolution to stipulate that the inquiry be "impartial, independent and comprehensive." Australia is seen as a leader in rallying support for such an inquiry, attracting Chinese criticism that it is parroting the United States and inviting a Chinese boycott of exports and services. The motion comes as Trade Minister Simon Birmingham struggles to resolve a dispute with China over imports of Australian beef. Birmingham said Monday he has failed for six days to arrange to speak with his Chinese counterpart about China's ban on meat from Australia's four largest abattoirs over labeling issues.

■ **XI TO SPEAK AT WORLD HEALTH MEETING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping will speak at the opening ceremony of the World Health Organization's annual meeting later Monday. The foreign ministry said he will address the World Health Assembly by videolink. The conference is being held virtually this year because of the coronavirus. WHO has been drawn into a blame game between the U.S. and China over the spread of the virus. President Donald Trump has withdrawn U.S. funding for the U.N. organization, saying it has been too accepting of China's handling of the outbreak early on.

■ **PETITION OFFICES CLOSED:** The central government petition offices in Beijing, where people come from across China to register complaints, will remain closed for the time being as a virus control measure, state media reported Monday. As its virus cases have declined, China has moved to restart schools and reopen businesses and industries. But government offices that tend to attract large numbers of people in restricted spaces have largely remained closed. Xinhua News Agency noted complaints could be submitted online. China reported seven new virus cases on Monday, four of them Chinese returning from abroad and three locally spread. It has reported a total of 4,634 deaths among 82,954 cases of the virus since it was first detected late last year.

## UN envoy calls for Russia-US talks to help end Syrian war

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—The U.N. special envoy for Syria called Monday for talks between Russia and the United States to help end the more than nine-year-old war, saying the two major powers could play "a key role."

Geir Pedersen's encouragement to Moscow and Washington to take a leading role was his first public appeal to the rival powers on opposing sides of the conflict—Russia which has been the key backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad and the United States which supports the opposition.

Pedersen told the U.N. Security Council on Monday that the three countries that have taken the lead in arranging cease-fires in Syria—Assad allies Russia and Iran and opposition backer Turkey "are key players too."

He said members of a committee from the Syrian government, opposition and civil society who are supposed to draft a new constitution for the country and the 15 council nations are key players as well.

Pedersen said there have been too many fleeting opportunities in the past decades to move from conflict to a political path that were lost, and "those missed moments were followed by renewed violence and a hardening of positions among regional and international actors."

"We must not repeat this pattern," he said.

Pedersen said there is anxiety that while violence has somewhat abated at the moment it could escalate at any time, and deep disappointment that the political process hasn't delivered tangible improvements for the Syrian people.

"And there is a widespread sense that international competition is more prominent than cooperation, with Syrians paying the price," he told the U.N.'s top council.

With some calm at the moment and the world facing common threats from the COVID-19 pandemic and Islamic State extremists, Pedersen stressed that building trust between key international parties and with Syrians "is essential—and could unlock progress" toward peace.

He then encouraged the U.S. and Russia along with the others to engage in dialogue.

Ultimately, Pedersen said, "there is a need to come together to support a renewed effort in a Syrian-led, Syrian-owned, U.N.-facilitated political process" toward a political settlement based on the 2015 Security Council resolution that endorsed a road map to peace including drafting a new constitution and U.N.-supervised elections.

Final Interment Mass for
†Froilan Cruz Tenorio
September 9, 1939 – May 4, 2020
Saturday, May 23rd at 1:20 p.m.
St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church
5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington, TX 76016
Lang's wish was to be cremated. A portion of his ashes will be buried in Saipan with his parents, and the other portion will be with his wife and family at his home in Texas.
For pending live streaming information of the mass, please visit
https://www.facebook.com/froilanctenorio

# Good Housekeeping

LOUISA CHU/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Crispy fried rice is made with leftover rice, frozen peas and window sill scallions, plus fresh spring asparagus and radishes.

## Pandemic pantry recipe:

# Crispy fried rice

## with crunchy golden crown

By LOUISA CHU
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When microwaved leftovers trigger flashbacks to sad desk lunches, but aspirational coronavirus cooking feels like too much work, you might try what's become my go-to pandemic pantry nonrecipe for crispy fried rice.

A hidden golden crust distinguishes this technique that's far easier than even nontraditional fried rice and grants you permission to stop trying to recreate your favorite restaurant's dish.

Rice cookers have eliminated scorched rice, the toasted layer left behind in a cooking pot. That is unless it's created with intent. Every rice culture shares a variation, from Chinese claypot rice to Korean dolsot bibimbap to Spanish paella socarrat to prized Persian tahdig.

A nutty hard bite as satisfying as a kettle potato chip or crackling pork rind transforms leftovers simply layered over rice. Use a nonstick pan or well-seasoned cast iron, and enough oil to barely coat the bottom, a ratio of about 1 tablespoon oil to 2 cups cooked rice. Top with whatever leftovers you have, and add fresh or frozen ingredients if you want.

In our heightened waste not, want not moment, remember to reward yourself that first bite of crunchy crust, which always belongs to the cook.

### CRISPY FRIED RICE WITH ASPARAGUS AND RADISHES

**Prep:** 15 to 20 minutes
**Cook:** 15 to 20 minutes
**Makes:** 3 to 6 servings

You can use whatever leftovers you have on hand with this technique, but if you want a recipe for inspiration, here's the dish with spring ingredients to serve as a side or main, possibly topped with fried eggs or sauteed nuts.

- 1 bunch red radishes with green tops, about 1 pound, halved as needed to bite size
- 1 bunch asparagus, about 1 pound
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 6 cups cooked rice, hot or cold
- 1/2 cup frozen peas
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 3 scallions, greens sliced thin (save white roots to regrow in a jar of water on your window sill)
- Butter plus lemon or white rice vinegar

1. Soak the radishes to wash well of sandy soil; separate the greens from the red roots. For the asparagus, snap off tough bottoms for compost; snap spears in half, separate stems from tips.

2. In a cold wok, skillet or wide-bottomed saucepan, add oil then swirl to coat. Add rice, then red radish roots and asparagus stems. Season with half of the salt and pepper. Cover, then turn heat on medium high. Cook until you hear sizzling and smell rice toasting, about 5 minutes.

3. Turn the heat down, then carefully uncover. Scrape down any stray rice grains. Re-cover, then turn heat to medium and cook, about 10 minutes. Turn heat down again, uncover, break up any clumps of rice and check that a crust is forming underneath. Add a little more oil as needed. Add radish greens, asparagus tips and frozen peas, plus remaining salt and pepper. Re-cover, then turn heat to medium; cook, about 5 more minutes.

4. Turn off heat, uncover, add soy sauce around the edge of rice, then slide your spatula around the bottom crust. Garnish with scallion greens and butter; season to taste with lemon or vinegar for bright acidity. Serve directly from the pan, breaking crunchy crust as needed, golden side up.

# How to make your own hand sanitizer at home

By LISA BOONE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When it comes to protecting yourself from the novel coronavirus, you already know what to do: Stay home and keep your hands clean by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds _ and keep your hands away from your face.

But what happens when you have to leave the house to go grocery shopping or pump gas and don't have access to soap and water?

Hand sanitizer is the next best option, although health officials stress that it's not a replacement for washing your hands with soap and water.

That hasn't stopped the demand for hand sanitizer, which has flown off store shelves much like bottled water and toilet paper. The demand has been so great, in fact, that EBay has forbid the sale of hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes in the wake of egregious price gouging.

With hand disinfectant difficult to find, people are now making their own, thanks to a variety of recipes and tutorials available online and on YouTube.

So if you can't find hand sanitizer, don't panic. The World Health Organization has published a recipe and step-by-step guide online, (originally made available to help countries with limited resources to clean water and towels) with ingredients you may already have in your medicine cabinet:

### The WHO formula for DIY hand sanitizer

- 1 cup of 99.8% isopropyl alcohol
- 1 tablespoon of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- 1 teaspoon of 98% glycerin
- 1/2 cup of sterile distilled water or boiled water that has cooled

1. Pour the alcohol into a glass container.

2. Add hydrogen peroxide.

3. Add glycerin and stir vigorously to combine as it is much thicker than alcohol and hydrogen peroxide.

4. Add sterilized water or the cooled boiled water and stir.

5. Pour into spray bottles.

6. Let the bottles rest for 72 hours. This will kill any bacteria that might be present, especially if you are reusing the containers.

That's it.

For hand sanitizer to be effective, the CDC recommends an overall content of least 60% alcohol. That means that if you make your own formula with 70% isopropyl alcohol instead of 99%, your do-it-yourself hand sanitizer won't be strong enough to fight COVID-19. (You can also use ethanol in place of isopropyl alcohol, but it must be at least 180 proof).

The formula is simple, but the ingredients are in short supply. My neighborhood Walgreens had glycerine in stock Sunday, but was sold out of rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide. The items were also sold out at CVS. Don't presume the ingredients will be at the store if you see them online as the availability was not accurate. A Walgreens employee said the items have been in great demand due to the interest in home-brewed hand sanitizers but are generally restocked three times a week. So if you want to make your own formula, it may require some patience.

A teacher prepares a hand sanitizer for students as a precaution against the new coronavirus ahead of school reopening in a class at a high school in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, May 18, 2020. AP

# Life & Style

## TikTok names top Disney streaming exec as new CEO

By TALI ARBEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TikTok, the popular short-video app that has also drawn nati onal-security and privacy concerns, has a new high-profile CEO from Disney, Kevin Mayer.

Mayer will also be chief operating officer of TikTok's Chinese parent company, ByteDance, and report to its founder and CEO, Yiming Zhang, the company announced Monday.

He led Disney's streaming business, which launched Disney Plus in November and has already emerged as a threat in the increasingly competitive streaming-video arena, with 54.5 million subscribers. Mayer was also known for his role in building Disney through mergers, including the industry-changing 2019 acquisition of 21st Century Fox's TV and film business that created an entertainment behemoth.

TikTok's app features short videos, many with music and dancing, that has become a favorite of younger people and is known for its goofy, lighthearted feel. Like YouTube, it's known for "user-generated" content rather than the big-budget, professional movies and TV shows Disney is famous for.

Having a U.S.-based CEO from a major American media company could help TikTok navigate the U.S. regulatory environment and approach to privacy and data security, said eMarketer analyst Debra Williamson. "Having someone who's familiar with that at the helm is certain to be helpful for them," she said.

Mayer

TikTok has been the focus of U.S. national-security concerns because of its Chinese ownership. A U.S. national-security agency is reviewing ByteDance's purchase of TikTok's precursor, Musical.ly, while the U.S. military branches have banned the app from government-issued phones. Government officials have in recent years cracked down on Chinese companies, including telecom giant Huawei. There is concern that Chinese companies may share data with the Chinese government. TikTok and Huawei deny this.

The federal government has also fined TikTok for breaking children's privacy laws, and privacy watchdogs recently filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission saying the company was still violating the law.

Mayer, whose new job includes a top role at TikTok's parent company ByteDance, could also help popularize ByteDance's other apps globally, Williamson said. He will oversee ByteDance's music and gaming divisions; Helo, its social networking app in India; and emerging businesses.

"Like everyone else, I've been impressed watching the company build something incredibly rare in TikTok – a creative, positive online global community – and I'm excited to help lead the next phase of ByteDance's journey as the company continues to expand its breadth of products across every region of the world," Mayer said in a statement.

He leaves Disney a few months after the entertainment giant named a longtime executive , Bob Chapek, to replace the well-regarded CEO Bob Iger. Mayer had been regarded as a possible Iger successor.

Disney said Monday that Rebecca Campbell, another Disney veteran, will succeed Mayer as the chairman of the streaming and international business, and also announced Josh D'Amaro, the president of Walt Disney World Resort, as the successor to Chapek's old job as head of parks, experiences and products.

## Film shows nightmare of an emergency room in Italy

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Filmmaker Sasha Joelle Achilli has made documentaries on the Ebola virus and now the coronavirus. Ask which virus scares her more, and the answer is easy.

"The frightening thing about COVID is it's everywhere, and you just don't know," she said. "It is airborne and it feels much more easy to contract. So it was more frightening, definitely."

Achilli's film, "Inside Italy's COVID War," is being shown on "Frontline" at 10 p.m. Tuesday on most PBS stations. While the documentary looks at the crisis through the eyes of an emergency room doctor at Cremona Hospital in northern Italy, the story is universal.

The scene at Cremona, where Dr. Francesca Mangiatordi calls various care providers, pleading for empty beds to place the coronavirus patients crowding her emergency room, could have been at any hospital where the pandemic has hit hard.

Achilli spent four months in Africa making the 2015 film "Outbreak" for PBS. It's not that Ebola wasn't scary—you're more likely to die an ugly death if you get it—but it's easier to protect against than the coronavirus, she said.

Since she's from Italy and her father still lives there, the coronavirus story was more personal.

Finding Mangiatordi was a stroke of luck. A picture the doctor took of an exhausted colleague circulated widely online, and Achilli reached out before she even traveled to Italy. Mangiatordi's cooperation, and that of her colleagues and family, enabled "Frontline" to tell the broader story through a personal lens.

This image released by PBS shows Dr. Francesca Mangiatordi in a scene from the documentary "Inside Italy's COVID War," being shown on "Frontline" Tuesday at 10 p.m. on most PBS stations.
SASHA JOELLE ACHILLI/FRONTLINE/PBS VIA AP

"It has a special quality to it, the intimacy she was able to foster and the trust," said Raney Aronson-Rath, executive producer of "Frontline." "That kind of trust usually takes a lot of time, but Sasha was able to build that trust very quickly."

## Asian Americans lead in internet-based TV viewing use, study shows

Asian Americans, more than any other group, are using digital devices and streaming services for their television viewing, according to a report made public Monday.

The Nielsen company study said that Asian Americans are becoming key consumers and influencers in entertainment and gaming.

And Asian Americans are proving to be more tech savvy as their purchasing power widens, the report found. They are leaving behind live TV for Internet-based viewing at nearly double the rate of the total U.S. population.

The survey titled "Engaging Asian American Consumers at the Dawn of a New Decade" looked at people who identified as being Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander alone or in combination with another race.

It found that about 82% of Asian Americans subscribe to at least one streaming service, compared to 72% of the total population.

According to Nielsen, Asian Americans believe streaming platforms are where they will see more representation of people like themselves on TV.

The report cited Netflix, whose programming includes Ken Jeong and Ali Wong's comedy specials and the "Ugly Delicious" food show hosted by chef David Chang.

On gaming, the report found that Asian Americans are 14% more likely to own gaming consoles than other U.S, residents.

The U.S. Asian American population is the fastest-growing group of all major ethnic and racial groups among eligible U.S. voters, according to a Pew Research Center analysxis. They make up more than 11 million, or nearly 5%, of the electorate.

Asian American spending surpassed $1 trillion in 2019, according to Nielsen. That figure is projected to reach $1.3 trillion in 2022. ***(AP)***

## Woman's focus on fitness is hard for friend to bear

**DEAR ABBY:** I've been friends with "Lorraine" for 30 years. Actually, the friendship is kind of one-sided because she bugs the hell out of me.

She's a super-skinny health nut who constantly posts health advice and "uplifting" mantras on social media. Her Instagram feed is filled with pictures of her bland-looking vegan food and her doing yoga poses or running 5Ks in midriff tops so we can all see her six-pack abs. She regularly donates blood plasma and posts pictures of that, too.

Dining with her is embarrassing because she grills the waiters on how the food is prepared, even in vegan restaurants that list all ingredients. She comes off — to me, anyway — as thinking she has every facet of life figured out. She has been married twice to two jerks, keeps breaking and making up with "Harry," a seemingly nice guy, because he's fat (he's slightly plump yet attractive) and drinks too much (not sure about that). Her son, whom she treated as an annoyance and inconvenience when he was young, is now a gun-toting drug dealer.

I'm not perfect (I know I'm lazy, impatient and drink too much), but I don't portray myself as otherwise. My husband, a nicer person than I am, doesn't understand my resentment of Lorraine and keeps reminding me how much she loves me. She does. We're both in our 50s, but I feel like I've outgrown our friendship.

By the way, I don't think I'm jealous of her because I'm very happy in my marriage and feel that I am more attractive than she is (despite outweighing her). Must I stay friends with Lorraine? If not, how do I end it?

CANCELING HER IN KANSAS CITY

**DEAR CANCELING: It appears you have a love/hate relationship with Lorraine. Nothing is wrong with you, and no law says you must maintain a friendship with her. When contact becomes more of an annoyance than a pleasure, many people begin editing their circle of acquaintances. The way to end your relationship with her would be to make yourself less available when she calls or wants to get together. If she asks you why, explain that you have fewer of the same interests than you used to, while omitting the part about her six-pack abs.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a widow. My husband passed away three years ago after 43 years of marriage. I met a widower who was also married for 43 years. His wife passed five years ago.

My grown children and grandchildren refuse to accept him. My therapist and psychiatrist tell me to stand my ground because I'm in love with him, as he is with me. Even my priest, who officiated at my husband's funeral, said I should consider this relationship as heaven-sent.

We get along beautifully, and it breaks my heart that my family wants me to choose between him or them. I am devastated over this because this is not how my family is. We are in love and although I love my family with all of my heart, I don't think they have the right to gang up against me. May I have your opinion on this?

DEVASTATED MOTHER

**DEAR DEVASTATED: What a painful situation. You say this isn't how your family is. Open your eyes, dear lady, and recognize that this is EXACTLY who they are. Then open up your ears and pay attention to the psychiatrist and the therapist you are paying good money for, as well as your priest. My opinion is you must live your life, and my advice is to GET ON WITH IT.**

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*

### DEAR ABBY

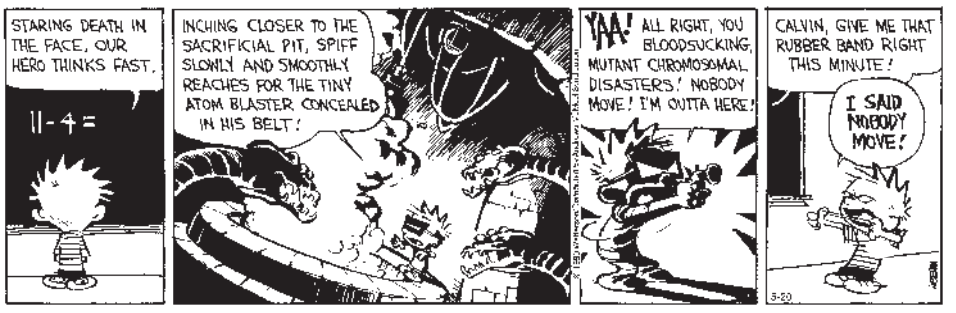
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

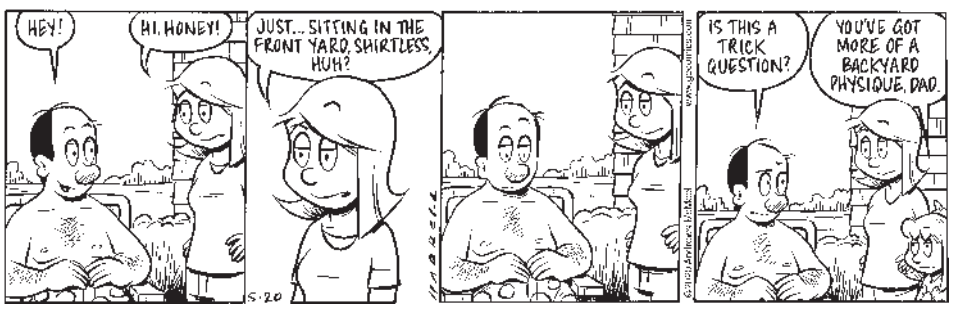

STARING DEATH IN THE FACE, OUR HERO THINKS FAST.
11-4=
INCHING CLOSER TO THE SACRIFICIAL PIT, SPIFF SLOWLY AND SMOOTHLY REACHES FOR THE TINY ATOM BLASTER CONCEALED IN HIS BELT!
YAA! ALL RIGHT, YOU BLOODSUCKING, MUTANT CHROMOSOMAL DISASTERS! NOBODY MOVE! I'M OUTTA HERE!
CALVIN, GIVE ME THAT RUBBER BAND RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
I SAID NOBODY MOVE!

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY!
HI, HONEY!
JUST... SITTING IN THE FRONT YARD, SHIRTLESS, HUH?
IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?
YOU'VE GOT MORE OF A BACKYARD PHYSIQUE, DAD.
5-20

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

A LOT OF PLACES ARE STILL SHUT DOWN BECAUSE OF THE VIRUS.
I HOPE THINGS OPEN UP IN TIME FOR CINCO de MAYO.
CINCO de MAYO ALREADY PASSED.
I MEAN CINCO de MAYO, 2025.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 More, to Manuel
4 Classic car
7 Long lunch?
8 "The — Mutiny"
10 Eucalyptus eater
11 Germany's Merkel
13 Well-informed
16 Blue hue
17 Brittany seaport
18 Playwright Levin
19 Marshy areas
20 Fresh
21 Strong bond
23 Kayak's cousin
25 Acknowledge
26 Sis and bro
27 Stitch
28 Spiteful
30 Sly one
33 Dealing with a lot of stress
36 Madrid matron
37 Heston role
38 Put through a sieve, as potatoes
39 To boot
40 — Moines
41 Myrna of film

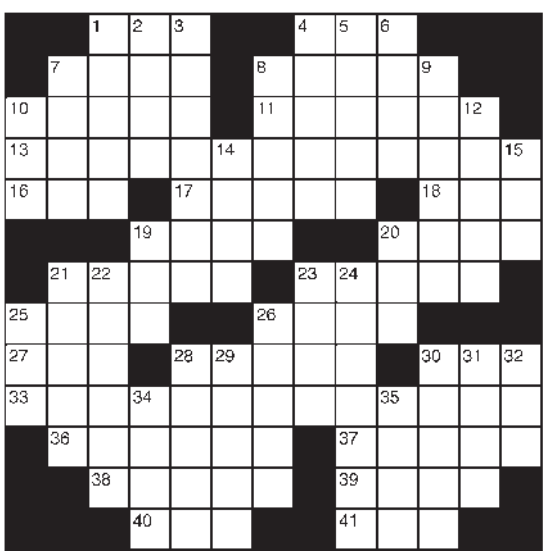
**DOWN**

1 Substantive
2 Folk-singer Guthrie
3 Speaker's stand
4 Tirades
5 Octet count
6 R.E.M.'s "The — Love"
7 Toot one's horn
8 Bistros
9 Weather-changing current
10 Decks in the ring
12 Concur
14 Wild revelry
15 Witnessed
19 Fiddle stick
20 Reply (Abbr.)
21 Levels
22 Loose snow
23 Refer to
24 Very bad
25 Tempe sch.
26 Pricey violin
28 "Time in a Bottle" singer
29 — -ski
30 Persnickety
31 Sandwich treat
32 Ballot marks
34 Oklahoma city
35 Alone

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | C | S | | S | A | P | | G | L | A | D |
| C | B | O | E | | A | M | C | | L | | | O |
| U | N | S | | D | I | P | L | C | M | A | S | |
| P | A | J | A | M | A | S | | E | R | A | S | E |
| | | | M | A | T | | T | A | I | | | |
| M | O | P | E | Y | | B | A | H | A | M | A | S |
| R | A | E | | | M | A | C | | | E | Y | E |
| S | I | I | G | M | A | S | | M | A | N | N | A |
| | | | | E | X | | C | R | E | | | |
| A | R | I | A | S | | E | N | | G | M | A | S |
| T | V | D | R | A | M | A | S | | E | A | V | E |
| T | E | L | E | | I | R | E | | A | L | I | A |
| A | H | E | S | | A | P | I | | N | E | A | I |

Yesterday's answer 5-20



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Matt Czuchry, 43; Tony Goldwyn, 60; Bronson Pinchot, 61; Cher, 74.

**Happy Birthday:** Gear up to get moving. You'll surpass your goal if you are steadfast and use your skills to push past the competition and toward the finish line this year. Nothing is impossible if you give your all and follow through with your plans. Don't hesitate when time is of the essence. Take a position of leadership. Your numbers are 8, 11, 24, 27, 33, 36, 45.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Don't give in or give up. Set your sights on what you want, and don't stop until you achieve your goal. Persistence will pay off and encourage you to set higher objectives. Someone will honor a promise he or she made. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Consider what you enjoy doing most, and turn it into a part of your daily routine. Fine-tune your skills to ensure that you take care of your responsibilities efficiently and in the least amount of time. Change begins with you. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Avoid a conflict of interest brought on by an emotional situation. Choose to be creative but realistic. Strive to keep a steady pace free of interference or outside influence. Follow your heart, not what someone else wants. Make health and fitness priorities. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Watch what others do, and learn. A thoughtful response will grab someone's attention far quicker than ridicule. Find a way to open a conversation, not to silence how others feel. How you choose to do business will define how well you do. ✪✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Do the things you enjoy the most. Take a break from the stress you are facing, and daydream about your aspirations and desires. A commitment you make should be for the right reason. Make only the necessary changes. ✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep both eyes open. Someone will mislead you if you are too trusting. Look for practical ways to expand your interests, improve your life or make a calculated move that will enrich your experience personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A change to the way you handle your finances should include a cap on nonessential purchases. A misleading ad promising to fix a flaw you see in yourself will tempt you. Knowledge is power; research will eliminate the uncertainty. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change someone makes will catch you off guard. Don't overreact or respond too quickly. Look for alternative ways to get what you want. Having a backup plan will put your mind at ease. An investment will disappoint you. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* An unanticipated change will leave you in a quandary. Don't act in haste. Hearsay will be misleading. Personal improvement and doing what's best for you are encouraged. Trust issues will develop if you or someone close to you withholds information. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Refuse to let what others do limit you. Focus on what you want to do, and you'll encounter an unexpected opportunity. Your ability to outmaneuver anyone you come up against will lead to a profit. Play fair. ✪✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Revise your skills. Implement new technology, and invest time, money and effort in you. Love and romance are on the rise, and discussing your intentions will help you get a better view of what's to come. ✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't make a decision based on someone's opinion. A problem with a friend, colleague or relative will cause self-doubt. Talk to an expert to help you figure out your best course of action. Make health, fitness and moderation priorities. ✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are patient, observant and hardworking. You are sensitive and assertive.

*Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | 8 | | | 6 | 3 | |
| | 2 | | | | 5 | | | 4 |
| 7 | | | | | 3 | | | 2 |
| 6 | | | | | 8 | | | 3 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | | | | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 5 | | | 9 | | | | | 6 |
| 8 | | | 3 | | | | | 7 |
| 4 | | | 7 | | | | 2 | |
| | 7 | 3 | | | 6 | 1 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Difficulty Level ★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

INDONESIA'S TAMBORA VOLCANO — Solution: 13 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | S | I | G | O | L | O | E | A | H | C | R | A | S | S |
| S | S | W | O | L | F | V | S | A | R | H | P | E | T | U |
| E | D | L | U | N | I | T | S | E | T | U | O | R | S | M |
| R | N | P | L | T | E | S | L | O | P | E | A | O | I | B |
| O | U | L | C | A | C | E | A | J | R | T | I | S | G | A |
| F | O | A | M | O | W | G | I | A | O | N | M | O | O | W |
| O | S | T | N | D | R | R | R | V | C | E | P | L | L | A |
| R | T | E | A | O | A | A | O | A | K | V | A | S | O | Ⓗ |
| M | R | S | S | S | I | L | C | S | U | O | C | S | Ⓘ | V |
| A | E | F | F | E | C | T | S | S | E | P | T | Ⓚ | B | S |
| T | M | I | S | A | S | E | P | X | D | I | Ⓔ | L | A | T |
| I | O | A | N | A | M | A | N | U | E | U | S | A | N | S |
| O | R | O | G | O | V | D | G | T | R | D | O | M | K | A |
| N | S | S | D | M | M | A | N | T | L | E | N | L | I | L |
| A | R | E | D | L | A | C | L | I | M | A | T | I | C | C |

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Active, Aerosols, Archaeologist, Ascent, Biologist, Caldera, Clasts, Climatic, Clouds, Cone, Domes, Effects, Eruption, Flows, Forest, Formation, Gases, Hike, Impact, Index, Java, Largest, Lava, Magma, Mantle, Peak, Plates, Rock, Routes, Scoria, Seismic, Slope, Sounds, Steam, Stratovolcano, Sumbawa, Tephra, Tremors, Vent, Viscous, Walls

**Yesterday's Answer: Primary**

**Treasuries 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

# Governors ready for return of sports

AP
In this Feb. 18, 2020, the New York Yankees' DJ LeMahieu fields the ball in practice during spring training in Tampa, Florida.

**NEW YORK**—Nearly 10 weeks ago, NBA commissioner Adam Silver shuttered his league after a player tested positive for the coronavirus. The dominoes fell quickly afterward. The NHL and MLB suspended their seasons, the NCAA tournament was canceled and a slew of annual events—from the Kentucky Derby to the Masters— were postponed.

Sports stopped, dead in its tracks.

Now, it may be full steam ahead.

On Monday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said his state, the hardest hit in the country, isn't just receptive to the return of sports, but wants to partner with sports organizations to make it happen.

"I have been encouraging major sports teams to plan reopenings without fans, but the games could be televised," Cuomo said on Monday. "New York state will help those major sports franchises do just that. Hockey, basketball, baseball, football, whoever, can reopen.

"We are a ready, willing and able partner."

Hours later, California Gov. Gavin Newsom said pro sports could potentially return in his state "in that first week or so of June without spectators." Then, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order allowing teams and leagues to resume starting May 31.

California has 18 franchises in the NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB and MLS. Texas has 10, New York nine. Additionally, each state is home to auto racing events, major golf and tennis championships, horse racing and so on.

This is the clearest sign yet that pro sports at least are going to have the opportunity to give this year a go.

All the major sports leagues have designed myriad plans for reopening, but the uncertainty of local decision-making and the regional nature of the virus has complicated everything.

Understandably, what might be allowable and reasonable in (to use the NBA as an example) little-hit Oklahoma City, would not be in New York City.

Although there are many forces and factions in public life that want to divide and paint people with contrasting opinions and standards as evil and idiotic, divergent ideas are a good thing. Everyone wants what is best. In our big and grand country, it's the circumstances that are different.

Now, there is some clarity and, apparently, uniformity.

No place in America has suffered like New York. It's home to around a quarter of all fatalities linked to COVID-19. If Cuomo is all in, then leagues should expect everywhere to follow.

There's already been clearance in states where the virus hasn't been as prevalent. Arizona was a full go starting last week. North Carolina and South Carolina worked out a plan to get NASCAR rolling again (the first of four races across 11 days in the two states went off Sunday).

Florida has been willing to take just about anything. It allowed WrestleMania to be staged in an Orlando television studio on April 4-5 and the UFC to hold three cards in Jacksonville over the last couple of weeks.

Those are Southern and Western states with warm weather, prevalent sun and fewer confirmed cases.

New York is different. And it is part of a trend.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh told the Boston Globe he is fine with opening Fenway Park (MLB's Red Sox) and TD Garden (NBA's Celtics, NHL's Bruins) for games to be played without fans, "as long as the players and the teams and the support staff ... are safe and feel comfortable."

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer echoed the same optimism about games being played at her hard-hit state's four professional franchises (and perhaps numerous college ones), just without crowds in the stands.

"We can have sports," Whitmer said. "Just the way we observe them might look different for a while."

That should be good enough for sports fans. In some ways, the quiet of a spectator-less competition has provided unique insight for television viewers.

It'd be great for everything to be back to normal with jammed arenas, but don't let perfection be the enemy of progress. It's the same concept that if things can be done as safely as possible, then they should be attempted even if there are some positive tests as a result.

This is about flattening a curve, not finding a cure.

The UFC pushed forward with its May 9 event even after one fighter and two team members tested positive despite asymptomatic conditions. Thus far, there has been no indication that UFC 249 produced an outbreak of the virus, although it is still within the two-week window.

There will be positive tests among athletes, coaches and personnel. That's all but certain. It's up to the leagues to figure out how to proceed in spite of them.

There's been plenty of time for planning. Implementation is next. With cities and states everywhere increasingly ready for things to resume, it's go time.

"Personal disclosure, I want to watch the Buffalo Bills," Cuomo said.

At this point, who wouldn't? ***(NBC/AP)***

## Premier League could face a year of COVID-19 restrictions

**MANCHESTER, England** (AP)—The Premier League has been told by government experts that coronavirus restrictions could endure for at least a year across English football, with players allowed to resume only non-contact training from Tuesday.

England's top division has been studying how the Bundesliga was able to resume competition at the weekend while being realistic about missing its aspiration of getting back underway by June 12.

"We have to be flexible about it," Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said in a media call Monday. "The Germans are a couple of steps ahead of us obviously and we can learn from them and watch them and take confidence from their success."

Team executives will hold talks next Tuesday to discuss protocols for allowing players to take part in contact training, but it is dependent on government approval and there being no new spike in COVID-19 cases after an easing of lockdown restrictions.

"(Once) we have had a proper discussion with clubs about how much is required to create the fitness levels before they can start playing, we are then in a position to be able to confirm when the season start is," Masters said.

The 20 clubs on Monday agreed to protocols for small groups of players to train while maintaining social distancing that exists in wider society. Inspectors will drop into training complexes to check the rules are being followed.

"That will enable us to give everyone confidence that the protocols are being complied with, and give the public confidence that we are trying to create a very safe working environment," said Richard Garlick, the league's director of football.

"We can request information from videoing of the sessions and GPS data, too."

The protocols have been formed in conjunction with the government, which has cautioned a COVID-19 vaccine may not be developed at all, despite the huge global effort to produce one.

"They've made it very clear that the social situation, the public health situation is not going to change over the next six to 12 months," Premier League medical adviser Mark Gillett said. "We're going to be looking to make the same kind of cultural changes at training grounds and in footballers' behaviours whether we have this conversation now or at any point this year. It is important that people understand that."

Regular testing of players, coaches and support staff is the league's way of trying to quickly detect any infections and stop the virus spreading at clubs. Testing is due to take place twice weekly at clubs on up to 40 people.

Training will be allowed to begin on Tuesday once the results of the first set of results are delivered on Tuesday.

Players will have to arrive at the training ground on their own—already in their kit-—and leave at least three spaces between each car in the parking area.

"We strongly discourage tactical meetings on site so that social distancing is maintained at all times," Gillett said. "They have 15 minutes in which to prepare themselves in terms of treatment prior to training. But they can use the gym as long as they socially distance themselves from another athlete and they clean the equipment after every use."

For now, up to five players will be allowed on training pitches only for a maximum 75 minutes.

"A player has a quarter of a pitch to work within, so social distancing is not a problem," Newcastle manager Steve Bruce said. "We'll train with eight to 10 at a time on two separate pitches. Everything is in place in the safety aspect. I've got no issues and I can tell the supporters the players and the staff are as safe as we possibly can be.

"We all understand that this virus isn't going to go away just like that—it's going to hang around a bit, but I think with the protocols in place we'll do everything we possibly can to get up and running again."

# LeBron: Definitely not giving up on season

**CALIFORNIA** (AP)—LeBron James reiterated Monday that he is hopeful the NBA season can resume, with the caveat that the health and well-being of players won't be jeopardized by a return to play.

The Los Angeles Lakers star, speaking on the Uninterrupted platform's "WRTS: After Party" show that was released Monday, said it remains his wish that the season comes back "sooner than later." The NBA suspended the season on March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic, and two unidentified members of the Lakers were among the league's players who subsequently tested positive for the virus.

"Definitely not giving up on the season," James said. "Not only myself and my teammates, the Lakers organization, we want to play. There's a lot of players that I know personally that want to play. And obviously, we don't ever want to jeopardize the health of any of our players or any of the players' families and so on and so on.

"This is a pandemic that we have no idea (about). We can't control it," James added.

James was among a group of some of the league's highest-paid players, National Basketball Players Association president Chris Paul of the Oklahoma City Thunder also part of the group, who met last week to talk about the season. Those players affirmed to one another on that call that they would like to see the season resume.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told players' union members on May 8 that he was hoping to make some sort of decision about the future of the season within no more than a four-week window. By that timeframe—barring any adjustments based on what's happening with the pandemic—Silver and the NBA would be hoping to decide upon some course of action by June 5.

That said, there has been no definitive timetable from the NBA on when a decision would be made. The league is prepping for many options.

As of Monday, just over half of the league's 30 franchises had reopened their practice facilities for voluntary workouts. But other sports are showing promising signs, with NASCAR restarting its season this past weekend, baseball working through some plans that could lead to a summer opening day, and live golf returning to television Sunday with a skins game in South Florida.

AP

In this March 8, 2020 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James dribbles during the second half of an NBA game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Los Angeles.

"We're seeing a lot of sporting events, UFC, soccer, we're hearing baseball's about to get going in a little bit," James said. "You know, I want to get back to playing. I love to play the game of basketball. I know how inspiring the game of basketball is. I know how inspiring sport is, itself. As soon as possible, when we can get back out there, we'd love to bring the game of basketball back to our fans."

James and the Lakers were atop the Western Conference standings when the NBA suspended play. At 49-14, the NBA's second-best record behind Milwaukee, the Lakers had already clinched what would be their first playoff spot since 2013.

"I know we all miss it," James said. "I'd be sitting here lying if I said we don't."

## Clippers' Rivers optimistic

By Monday afternoon, after the Clippers and Oklahoma City Thunder became the latest NBA teams to reopen their practice facilities, 17 of the 30 franchises had allowed players to return to conduct limited, voluntary workouts and rehabilitation under team supervision.

But not everyone has been invited back yet. Head coaches are not allowed to take part, according to NBA guidelines that govern how teams can reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Clippers coach Doc Rivers does not expect to remain sidelined for long.

On the same day that a small group of Clippers players returned to the team's Playa Vista facility, Rivers reiterated his optimism that an NBA season on hold since March 11 eventually will resume.

"We have this saying right now with our team called 'Win The Wait,' and so we're trying to win the wait meaning we believe there's going to be a season, we really do," Rivers told said. "And if there is we cannot let this disruption be the reason that we don't win. We want to be fully ready if and when we get the start button."

For now, such a restart remains only a possibility, but with more than half the league hosting individual workouts again, optimism has grown in some corners of the league. The NBA has allowed only teams in states where stay-and-home orders have been eased to reopen their doors.

Still, any optimism remains cautious, given the strict guidelines put in place to even reopen team facilities and conduct limited workouts. Some teams have asked coaches to wear masks on court. Getting into the Lakers' El Segundo facility Saturday required guard Quinn Cook to have his temperature checked and leave his shoes outside. He described the precautionary measures during an Instagram live session with teammate Jared Dudley.

A Clippers spokesman declined to say which players, or how many, arrived Monday. League rules allow for a maximum of four players inside a facility at one time, with each player allowed to work with only one coach.

"This has been tough for everybody, let's make that clear," Rivers said. "For me in this period, my job has been twofold. One has been to communicate with my players so I try to talk with them as much as I can. I try to have my staff talk to them as much as they can. We're doing Zoom calls, we're doing Zoom workouts now where every day our strength coach and our trainers get on with our players; we do groups of five, so three times a day, where they're working out. They got their heart monitors on the screen. We're checking their weight.

"And then the second part, I've become the vision of, like, hope. I have to give our guys hope because we're not like every other team. There's five or six teams that started this year, maybe more, with the dream of winning a title. So this has been interrupted."

# US Open no longer 'open', quashes qualifying for major

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The U.S. Open might feel more like a closed shop this year.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which already has postponed the U.S. Open at Winged Foot from June to September, has forced the USGA to do away with qualifying for the first time since 1924.

Open qualifying is the hallmark of golf's second-oldest championship. The USGA often points out that typically half of the 156-man field has to go through either 36-hole qualifying or 18-hole and 36-hole qualifying.

It even invested in a marketing campaign that was rolled out in February titled, "From Many, One," to illustrate that more than 9,000 people apply to play in the U.S. Open, eventually yielding to one winner.

The USGA did not announce Monday how other players would become exempt.

Among those who have yet to qualify is Phil Mickelson, a runner-up six times in the only major he hasn't won.

Mickelson said in February he would not ask the USGA for an exemption, and that if he didn't qualify or become exempt, he wouldn't play. Winged Foot is where Mickelson made double bogey on the final hole in 2006 to lose by one.

The field presumably will be smaller because of the later date, though the USGA did not mention the field size in its April 6 announcement that the U.S. Open was moving to Sept. 17-20 at Winged Foot, in Mamaroneck.

"As you can imagine, this was an incredibly difficult decision, as qualifying is a cornerstone of USGA championships," said John Bodenhamer, senior managing director of championships for the USGA. "We take great pride in the fact that many thousands typically enter to pursue their dream of qualifying for the U.S. Open and we deeply regret that they will not have that opportunity this year."

Bodenhamer said no qualifying provides "the best path forward" to holding the U.S. Open.

The USGA said there would not be qualifying for three other championships it will hold this year—the U.S. Women's Open (moved to December in Houston) and the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Women's Amateur, both still scheduled for August.

The U.S. Open, which dates to 1895, had so many players wanting to compete in the years after World War I that it introduced qualifying in 1924. Then, it went to two stages of qualifying in 1959—18-hole local qualifying and 36-hole sectional qualifying.

Ken Venturi in 1964 and Orville Moody in 1969 are the only U.S. Open champions who got through both stages. Lucas Glover in 2009 was the last U.S. Open champion to go through 36-hole qualifying.

The USGA had 108 local qualifiers planned in 45 states and one in Canada, followed by 12 sectional qualifiers—nine in the U.S., one each in Canada, England and Japan.

When the U.S. Open was postponed, 50 players were exempt through various categories, such as past champions the last 10 years or Top 10 from last year's U.S. Open, major champions from the last five years and the Top 30 players who reached the Tour Championship last year.

# Chargers choose young QBs over Newton

**CALIFORNIA**—The Los Angeles Chargers will have a new starting quarterback in 2020, and they even considered signing Cam Newton.

Newton was released by the Carolina Panthers in March after spending the first nine years of his career with the NFC South franchise. The 31-year-old veteran won NFL MVP in 2015 and has ranked as a top-tier quarterback throughout his career.

There's no doubt that Newton, if healthy, would be a quarterback upgrade for several teams. One of those clubs is the Chargers.

The Chargers parted ways with longtime starter Philip Rivers in March, and they added University of Oregon star Justin Herbert with the No. 6 pick in the 2020 NFL Draft. Herbert joins a QB depth chart that includes 2019 fifth-round pick Easton Stick and veteran Tyrod Taylor, who signed with L.A. as a free agent in 2019.

AP

Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton calls a play from center during a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Charlotte, N.C., in this Sept. 12, 2019 file photo.

Chargers head coach Anthony Lynn admitted to CBS Sports Radio this past weekend that his team looked at signing Newton this offseason.

"Cam is a tremendous quarterback," Lynn said. "He's been MVP of this league, he's led his team to the Super Bowl and he's healthy now from what I hear. Cam is going to be on somebody's roster and he's going to help somebody win a few games. But yeah, we did take a look at that, sure."

Why didn't the Chargers sign Newton?

"I feel really good about the quarterback room that I have," Lynn said. "With Tyrod Taylor, Easton Stick—those are guys a lot of people don't talk about, but (Stick) was a Division I AA (star—he won like three national championships. ... He's a hell of a leader, a hell of a professional and I think he has a bright future in this league one day. But with him, Tyrod Taylor and knowing that we had an opportunity to get (a quarterback) picking sixth in the draft, all those decisions came into play when talking about Cam."

The Chargers sound content going into the season with Stick and Herbert. L.A. could've opted for a veteran like Newton, but instead are focused on developing their young quarterbacks.

One team that appears to be taking that same path is the New England Patriots. The Patriots remain the betting favorites to land Newton, but all signs currently point to New England entering next season with 2019 fourth-round draft pick Jarrett Stidham taking over for Tom Brady as the starting quarterback. Stidham showed a lot of potential during last year's training camp and preseason, and also in practices throughout the regular season. Stidham's teammates also have been quick to praise his physical and mental talents this offseason.

Another factor for the Patriots is they have very limited salary cap space—less than $2 million. Therefore, bringing Newton to Foxboro would be a challenge for the Patriots financially.

Lynn is right—Newton eventually will be signed and help a team win games. He's still a very good quarterback and has a ton of experience. However, he's not the best fit for the Chargers or Patriots—two teams that would be better served finding out what they have in their young quarterbacks.

Meanwhile, the NFL is amending the Rooney Rule to require more interviews of minority candidates for head coaching and coordinator positions, two people familiar with the decision tell The Associated Press.

## GROOVING

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tribution to the team and felt not compensated well. Then of course, there's Michael Jordan, how he handled himself under pressure inside and outside the basketball court—the scrutiny and how disciplined and competitive he was," Garcia added.

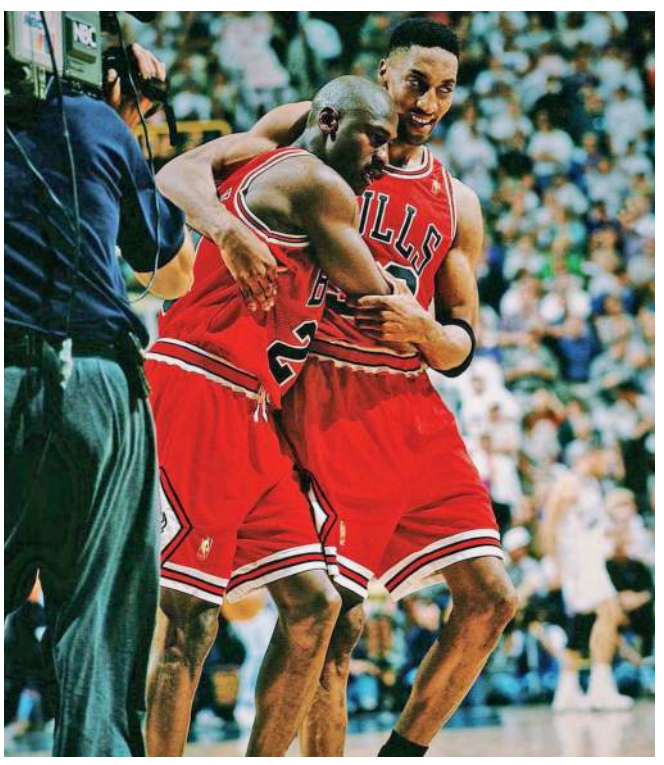
The Bulls' bid for the second 3-peat started about a year after Jordan came out of retirement in 1995. He was away from the NBA for nearly one year and a half and returned on March 18, 1995 (game against Indiana Pacers), but failed to tow the Bulls past the Orlando Magic in the second round of the playoffs. The following season, Jordan and company were back on top and went on to win their second 3-peat.

"They still found a way to make it work as a team. It has a lot to do also with Phil Jackson's ability to level with his star players and gain their respect," Garcia said.

Out of the Bulls' last three titles, two of them were against the Karl Malone and John Stockton-led Utah Jazz.

The part (Episode 9) featuring Game 5 of the 1997 NBA Finals against the Jazz stood out for Tiago Quirantes, who watched a couple of episodes of the documentary.

Game 5 was known was the "Flu Game" where Jordan despite being sick and suffering from flu-like symptom scored 38 points, including a crucial triple in their 90-88 victory that gave the Bulls the pivotal 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven title series. In was eventually revealed in the documentary that Jordan did not have a flu, but had food poisoning after eating pizza the night before Game 5.



AP

In this June 11, 1997 file photo, Chicago Bulls Scottie Pippen, right, embraces an exhausted Michael Jordan following their win in Game 5 of the NBA Finals against the Utah Jazz, in Salt Lake City.

"Whether he had flu or food poisoning, it's just admirable that he still played and helped his team win. As a basketball player, that kind of attitude motivates me to push past my comfort zone to help my team," said Quirantes, who plays in the suspended One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020.

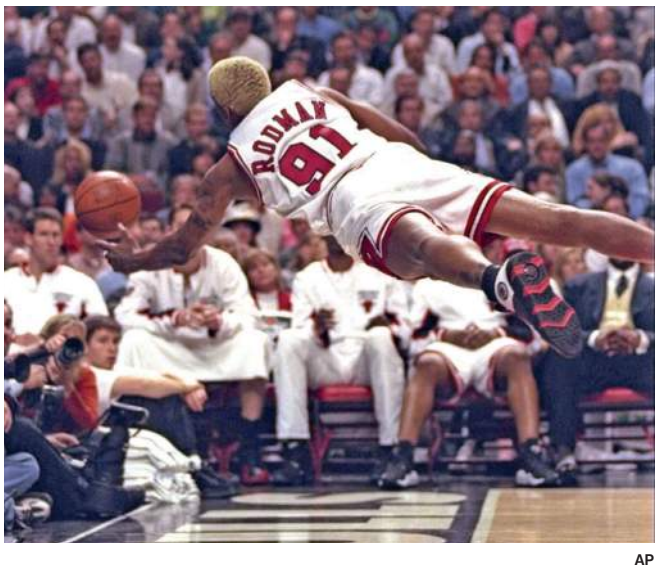
Jon Perez, a former sports reporter of Saipan Tribune, also remembers the back-to-back title series between the Bulls and his beloved Jazz and with Jordan denying Malone and Stockton from getting an NBA ring, he does not see any reason to watch the documentary. However, he read feedback on several episodes and agreed with Jordan's critics that his "Airness" pushed off against Bryon Russell in the crucial moments of Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals.

"He should have been called for the offensive foul," said Perez, a LeBron James follower.

For Jordan fan Charlie Rivera, he liked the episodes that discussed how tough Jordan was with his teammates (Steve Kerr, Will Purdue, and Bill Wennington to name a few), as his being a "jerk" translated into championships for the team. Rivera also mentioned how Jordan fought back against players who got into his head.

AP

Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan announces his retirement from professional basketball at the Berto Center in Deerfield, Ill., in this Oct. 6, 1993 file photo.




AP

The Chicago Bulls' Dennis Rodman dives for the ball in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against the New York Knicks during the 1996 NBA Playoffs at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois, in this May 7, 1996 file photo.

"You would see him how he punished those guys defending him so hard and talking trash," River said.

"It was just intriguing that they merely mentioned Luc Longley in the series, while Jerry Krause somehow became a villain on the team even after helping the Bulls win championships. He's a good manager," he added.

Meanwhile, Bea Cabrera, who played ball in the collegiate level and acknowledged that it was Jordan's words (basketball is for anyone, boys and girls) that got her into the sport, had mixed feelings on Episodes 7 and 8 when the NBA legend call it a career.

"It wasn't good that he was leaving the limelight at the height of his career. The sight of him setting up the play, shooting the ball, and slamming the dunk made basketball one of the best and exciting sports in the world. Fans wanted more, but it was also good because this paved the way for other basketball stars to shine," Cabrera said.

Governors ready for return of sports

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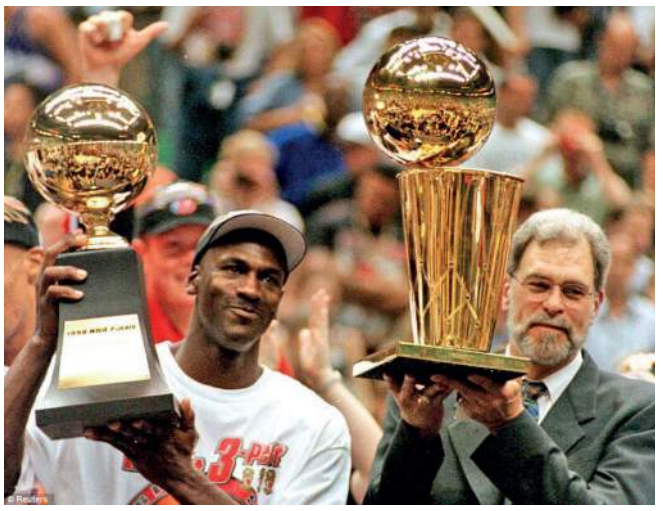
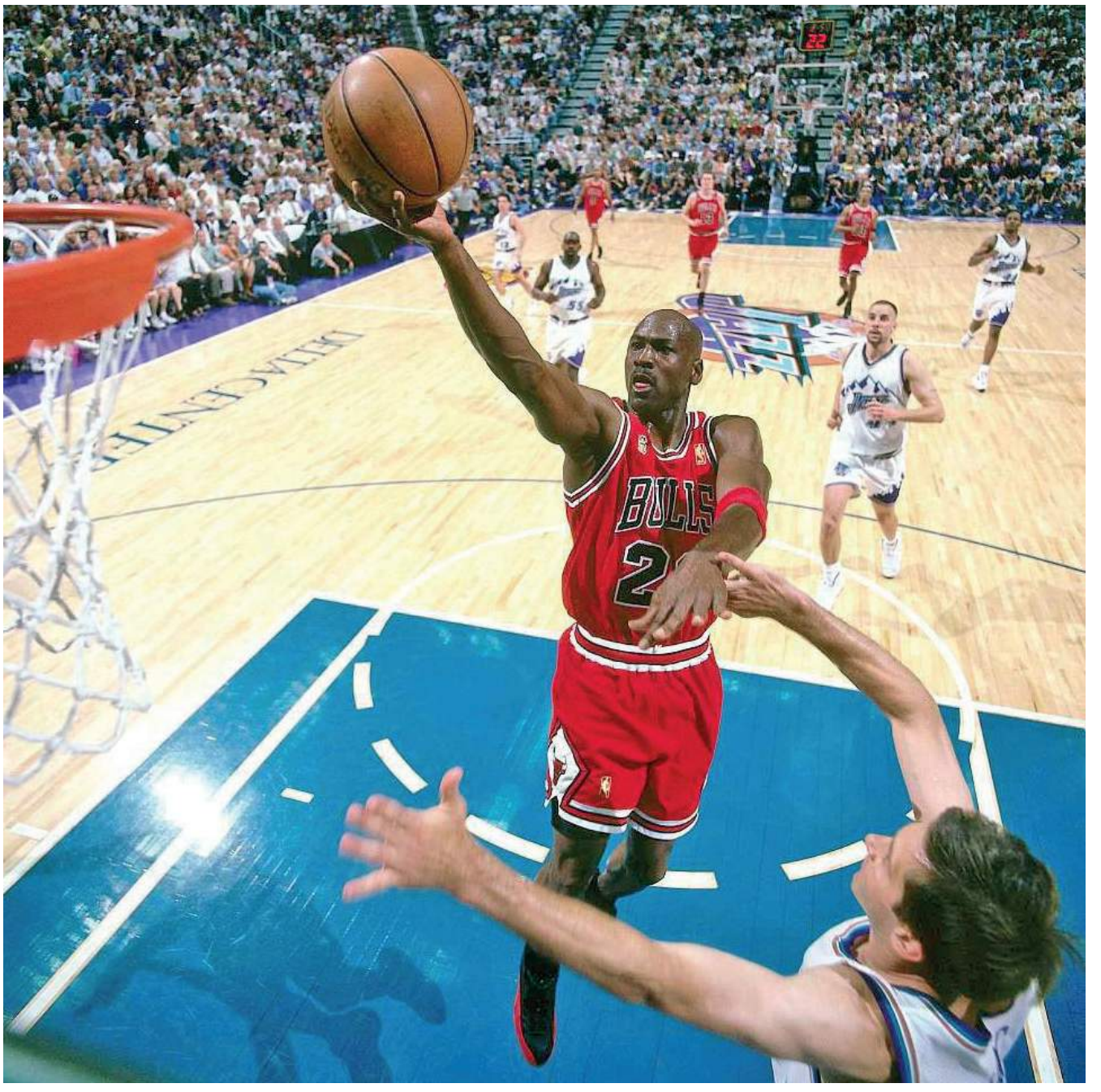
# Grooving to *The Last Dance*



AP

Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan, left, and coach Phil Jackson celebrate with their trophies after beating the Utah Jazz in the 1998 NBA Finals, 4-2.



AP

In this June 11, 1997 file photo, Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan drives towards the rim in Game 5 of the NBA Finals against the Utah Jazz at the Delta Center.

**By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 10-episode documentary series *The Last Dance* may have wrapped up last weekend, but discussions on Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls' NBA campaign in 1997-1998 continue.

*Saipan Tribune* talked to the islands' basketball fans, who watched the series, or at least parts of it, and asked which part of *The Last Dance* got them grooving.

"I think all topics are very essential. But what I like the most is, during their run for the second 3-peat (Episode 8). With all the adversity that they had to deal with as a team and individually, yet they claimed almost the impossible feat," said Jeff Garcia, who plays for Blue Haus.

"They managed to deal with Rodman, how he was a factor to the team, and his detours. There was also Pippen, who was undervalued for his con-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players hold pick up games at the Garapan Basketball Court yesterday.

## Social distancing in sports activities

The CNMI government is reminding members of the sports community to still follow safety measures when going out and doing their activities.

"The administration supports physical fitness and wellness, but we also want to ensure social distancing to prevent potential and inadvertent exposure," press secretary Kevin Bautista said.

Since the 7pm curfew has been lifted and the islands managed to have no active COVID-19 case last month, more people have resumed their usual activities, such as walking along Beach Road, biking, swimming, running, and playing tennis and basketball.

However, organized sports are still prohibited, as per Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' directives, and people are only allowed to engage in health and wellness activities provided they observe social distancing and other safety guidelines.

People caught violating the 6-foot social distancing mandates will be fined $100 on their first offense, while a fine of $250 and/or up to three days imprisonment for the second offense. People committing the offense for the third time will be slapped with a $500 fine and/or up to six months imprisonment.

Meanwhile, Bautista said that some golf courses on Saipan have also resumed their operation.

"Golf courses have already been open while adhering to the social distancing guidelines," said Bautista when asked if the CNMI will take a cue from Guam, which allowed tennis, golf, and scuba diving to resume with restrictions.

"The opening of our only public tennis courts at the American Memorial Park is subject to the policies and procedures of the National Park Service," he said. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***